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Village of Lewiston

There had to be a beginning . . .

Five hundred million years ago Niagara County was the bed of a vast warm ocean. Geologists tell us that the ocean floor buckled and heaved causing from time to time mountains to protrude above the warm waters. Then about one million years ago, the climate of this region changed drastically. Winter prevailed most of the year, with large sub-surface snow melting, refreezing and being recovered with additional snows. When the ocean froze the water level dropped, and in time a glacier formed. This mile high mass of ice started to move south, digging, grinding, and pushing everything in its path. This was the formation of the present Niagara area with its streams, rivers, and lakes.

About twenty-five thousand years ago, we find that the ice cover melted sufficiently to allow animals to drift into the young forests. Then almost as suddenly as life returned, it was forced south again due to the formation of a new ice cap. This occurred about four times during the subsequent ten thousand years. About twenty thousand years ago southern breezes and sunshine prevailed and the ice cap melted for the last time. This was the formative years of the St. Lawrence River valley, which became jammed and spilled its waters over the present escarpment and into what is known as the Tonawanda Plain. As the sun's rays melted additional snows, the glacier retreated northward, and the level of Lake Ontario also receded. Eventually this reduction of waters was such that the present Niagara River valley was formed with its falls initially cascading over the escarpment at Lewiston. Approximately fifteen thousand years later the continued drainage of the upper Great Lakes into Lake Ontario resulted in the gradual recession of this spectacular waterfalls to a point about seven miles up-river. This is where the present falls was located when first documented historically!

Early Inhabitants of Western New York . . .

As the Polar Cap receded, Asians made their way into this hemisphere. These nomads who lived by the chase were the forefathers of our present Indians. Artifacts have been recovered which place the Indian here as early as 1000 B.C. The Algonkin arrived here about 1200 A.D. and gradually moved into Canada as a result of Iroquois pressure.

The Iroquois tribes who earned a warrior heritage migrated from the west. They liked what they found here in the forests and promptly dispersed the other Indian groups from the region. As time went on, the Iroquois developed a semi-agricultural economy and consequently were not totally dependent on the chase. The women cultivated squash, beans, corn, and fruit. Animals of the forest were the source of meat and clothing—the trees provided the bark and poles for their long houses. Eventually the Mohawks were designated the "Keepers of the Eastern Gate"; the Senecas, "Keepers of the Western Door"; the Onondagas, "Keepers of the Council Fires"; and the Oneidas and Cayugas as "Younger Brothers." These tribes formed a mutual alliance for war and peace—called the Iroquois Confederacy. This League existed as a strong alliance until the late 18th century.

The Neuter, a lesser Iroquois tribe, which refused confederation, was permitted by the Senecas to occupy the present Lewiston-Queenston area. During the Confederacy war on the Algonquins, both combatants passed through the Neuter lands with impunity. In 1645 the victorious Iroquois started a campaign to destroy the Neuters for having allowed the League's enemies to pass. With the total destruction of the Neuters as a "nation," the Senecas now took up their duties as protectors of the "Western Door." In 1649, with the protection of the land rights, they were obligated to protect game preserves and waterways of the Niagara River, Lake Erie and Ontario, from the intrusion of the white man, who now appeared.

The First White Men were French . . .

The first white man to arrive in this locale was a young courier-de-vente, named Etienne Brule, in the service of Samuel Champlain. In 1615, on his first trip through the area enroute to the Andaste Indians, he reportedly portaged the Niagara River at Lewiston. This young Frenchman was farmed out to the Huron Indians at sixteen by Champlain, for the purpose of learning the Indian language and customs, so that he could assist in fur trading. He is credited with starting early trade with the Hurons, whose life was influenced by white man's pots, muskets, axes, knives, brandy—especially brandy. Direct trade with the French was prohibited by these Algonquin peoples, and this violation of rights naturally went against the grain of the Iroquois.

Etienne Brule revisited here in 1625. Upon his return to the Huron mission, he reported his impressions with such enthusiasm to the French, that the following year Pere Joseph de la Roche Daillon, a Recollet missionary, in the company of two companions, LaVallee and Grenolle, and a call on the Neuters, who were then living on the east side of the Niagara River. Because of the clerical lack of understanding of the Neuter language and customs they were "ill-treated and brutally handled."

Because of Neuter treatment to the Recollet Daillon, no man of the Huron again ventured into this territory for fourteen years. The Hurons, in effort to keep their French trade alive, continued to spread such vivid stories of priests that the Neuters were hesitant to welcome them into their villages. This did not stop Fathers Jean de Brebeuf and Joseph Chaumonot, Jesuits, from coming and spending the winter of 1641 with them. These men wrote their superior Father L'Allement, Provincial of the Jesuits in France, a letter dated May 19, 1641. I quote from the Superior L'Allement's letter: "It is the earliest known" reminiscence of this region, other than Huron tradition.

"Jean de Brebeuf and Joseph Marie Chaumonot, two Fathers of our company which have charge of the Mission to the Neuter Nation set out on the 2nd day of November 1640, to visit this people. Father Jean de Brebeuf is peculiarly fitted for such an expedition, God having in an eminent degree endowed him with a capacity for learning languages. His companion was also considered a proper person for the enterprise."

"Although many of our French in that quarter have visited the people to profit by their furs and other commodities, we have no knowledge of any who have been there to preach the gospel except Father de la Roche."



ONGIARA

"This river is that by which our great lake of the Hurons, or the fresh sea, is discharged, which first empties into the lake of Erie, or of the nation of the Cat (Eries), from thence it enters the territory of the Neuter Nation, and takes the name of Ongiaghara (Niagara), until it empties into Ontario or St. Louis, from which latter flows . . . into the St. Lawrence; so that if we once had control of the lake nearest the residence of the Iroquois, we could ascend by the river St. Lawrence, without danger, even to the Neuter Nation, and much beyond, with great saving of time and trouble."

"According to the estimate of these illustrious fathers who have been there, the Neuter Nation comprises about 12,000 souls, which enables them to furnish 4,000 warriors, notwithstanding war, pestilence and famine which have prevailed among them for three years in an extraordinary manner."

"After all, I think that those of . . . our French who first discovered this people, named them the 'Neuter Nation'; and not without reason, for their country being the ordinary passage, by land, between some of the Iroquois nations and the Hurons, who are sworn enemies, they remained at peace with both; so that in times past the Hurons and Iroquois, meeting in the same wigwam or village of that nation, were both in safety while they remained. Recently, their enmity against each other is so great, that there is no safety for either party in any place, particularly for the Hurons . . ."

"The Sonontonherons (Senecas), one of the Iroquois nations, the nearest to and most dreaded by the Hurons, are not more than a day's journey distant from the easternmost village of the Neuter Nation, named . . ."

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Meanwhile, at the eastern terminus of the Iroquois nation, the Mohawks were developing trade with the Dutch merchants at Albany. This exchange now began to reflect itself across the territory and eventually led to the Huron War. As early as 1624 the Dutch were trading arms and knives for furs at Albany. The Mohawks, fearing the encroachments from the west, were determined to retain their control of territory and trade with the remaining Iroquois tribes. With the discovery that beaver pelts commanded a high price, it was inevitable that more white men would appear at the Niagara portage. However, with the encouragement of the Dutch, who supplied the firearms, the Iroquois used the Landing at Lewiston as a staging area for war. By 1641, ten thousand Hurons were put to the tomahawk. For the next ten summers wars snuffed out the lives of many braves on both sides.

The French demand for trade with the Indians increased, even before 1666, when Rene Cavalier, Sieur de LaSalle, arrived in New France. Three years later he made his way across Lake Ontario to the mouth of the Niagara River, but was refused permission by the Senecas to cross their territory. Not one to give up easily, LaSalle returned time and again. Finally in 1678 he gained a landing at Lewiston. That year he dispatched from Fort Frontenac (Kingston, Ontario) fourteen men to establish trade in the Upper Great Lakes. Officially these men were the first to portage the Niagara River at Lewiston for the purposes of trade. Close on their heels Tonti, LaSalle's Italian lieutenant, passed through this portage to chart a route to Lake Erie. Next came the sixteen man party, ships-carpenters, blacksmiths, and other artisans, under the command of Dominique La-

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te. They were to build LaSalle's boat the **Griffin**. In the party was the familiar Father Louis Hennepin, a Belgian Recollet, who was later to publish a book of "his exploits" on the Niagara as well as the Mississippi.

On the sixteenth of December 1678, in a lightly falling snow, Father Hennepin, LaMotte, and the ship's party, winched ashore their bateau "in a small gully cut into the mountain" (roughly from Lewiston's Fourth street to the water's edge). The very next day Father Hennepin built a small hut to say the first historically recorded Mass on the Niagara frontier. It was to his hut, the men built a cabin, which was to act as a storehouse for the supplies which had to be transported up "the three mountains" (to the upper Niagara River) for the building of the **Griffin**. The hostility of the Senecas caused LaMotte, Hennepin, and a young man who acted as interpreter named Brassart, to travel some twenty miles (near present day Lockport) to the Seneca village to seek permission for their capture on the Lower Landing. They returned empty-handed. Hennepin writes:—

"On the 14th day of January, 1679, we arrived at our cabin at Niagara, refreshed ourselves from the fatigues of our voyage. We had nothing to eat but Indian corn. Fortunately, the white fish were just in season. This beautiful fish served to relish our corn. We used the water the fish were cooked in, in place of soup. When it grows cold in the pot, it congeals like soup."

"On the 20th, I heard, from the banks where we were, the voice of the **Griffin**, who had arrived from Fort Frontenac . . . He brought provisions and rigging necessary for the vessel we intended building on the great falls of Niagara . . . The vessel was wrecked on the shore of Lake Ontario . . . The anchors and cables were lost, but the goods and bark canoes were lost . . ."

"The Sieur de LaSalle informed us that he had been among the **Griffin** Senecas, before the loss of the vessel, that he had succeeded so far in conciliating them, that they mentioned with pleasure our embassy, and even consented to the prosecution of our undertaking."

January 26, 1681, was a great day in the lives of the group with LaSalle. The keel for the **Griffin** was laid and construction on the ill-fated vessel had begun. LaSalle then returned to his palisaded cabin at Lewiston to make plans for fortifications. The Senecas were growing suspicious of the strange activities of the white man. In the company of a few axe-men, LaMotte and Tonti, they set out for the mouth of the river. Here Tonti laid the plan and LaMotte was left behind to construct Fort Conti. It was not long after completion through the carelessness of the man in charge, a Sergeant LaFleur. While his men were busy building a ship at a fort, LaSalle left this area to explore the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. His fortified storehouse at the Landing remained his only base of operations for the transfer of supplies upriver.

The British governor at Albany, in 1685, was not to be outdone by the French on the Niagara River. He licensed a group of Dutchmen to trade on the upper Great Lakes. This amounted to an act of war for the French. The Dutch came up the Niagara River, following the same trail laid out by LaSalle, and proceeded to Lake Erie. They were fortunate the first year and returned with a good yield of furs. The following year they were apprehended at Detroit and returned to Montreal as prisoners, via the portage. British refusal to give up the fur trade in these waters led the French to construct a fort at the mouth of the Niagara River.

as Fort Denonville and it too was short-lived. The Senecas, distrusting the French motives, besieged the fort and alas destroyed LaSalle's palisaded cabin at Lewiston.

In 1701, the French founded Fort Detroit, and the Niagara portage became more important than ever to them. This was the short route from Montreal and Quebec to the upper lakes, and they were determined to use it. Through this portage and up over the "three mountains" passed the first white women in 1702. They were Madame de Cadillac and the wife of a soldier. For the next several years the Seneca Indians living near the river were hired to help transport the French (women, men and children) and domestic livestock to the upper portage so they could continue on to Detroit. To secure their portage with the Senecas, the French were in a ready state of negotiation and eager to provide reward—especially brandy.

France finally won complete control over this little site at the Landing along with the rest of Western New York through the efforts of Chabert Joncaire. This man appeared at the "Landing" in 1720 and built a palisaded trading post. Joncaire, as a young man, had been captured by the Senecas. He was tortured and about to be burned at the stake, but his bravery so impressed his tormentors that they adopted him into the tribe. It is claimed he lived among the Senecas with an "Indian wife," however, this has never been substantiated. Records of his marriage at Montreal are recorded as well as baptismal certificates for ten children. An early writer, Bancroft relates: "Joncaire (in 1721) planted himself in the midst of cabins at Lewiston, on the site where LaSalle had driven a rude palisade, and where Denonville had designed to lay the foundations of a permanent settlement."

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SALUTES

The Village of Lewiston



ated, left to right: Councilman Stephen J. Huckins, Supervisor Dominic Lauro, Councilman John Y. Vrooman; standing: Councilmen James T. Lombardi and H. James Walker

Charlevoix in a memoir to the governor at Montreal states, "on the first level is a Seneca village of about ten cabins, where Indian corn, beans, watermelons, peas, and pumpkins are raised, all which are very fine. The Senecas are employed . . . (and) they earn money by carrying the goods of those going to the upper country; some for misassis (stockings or leggings), others for shirts, some powder and ball, whilst others piler; and on the return of more French, they carry their packs of furs for some peltry. This portage is made for the purpose of avoiding the Cataracts of Niagara . . . having a perpendicular fall of two to three hundred feet . . . there is no need of fasting on either end of this lake, deer are to be found there in abundance."

This general store of Joncaire's caused the British at Albany great anguish. They immediately dispatched their chief interpreter Lawrence Clawsen, plus Myndert Schuyler, and Robert Livingstone, Jr., to destroy the establishment. In his report to the English governor, Clawsen stated:—"he told LaCorne, who was appointed to trade at this place, to withdraw, and that they were going to pull down that house. LaCorne answered them that he should not permit them to do so without an order from Sieur de Joncaire, who on being advised . . . went to the Senecas to prevent them from consenting to the demolition." The English returned to Albany leaving the French victorious for the moment. The Reverend Joshua Cooke, a prominent minister of the Lewiston Presbyterian Church and long time resident of the village, wrote in 1902, "I have a particular interest in the spot, for in 1802, eighty-one years after Joncaire built, my grandfather built his pioneer home on the spot—the first white man's home on the Niagara—after Joncaire."

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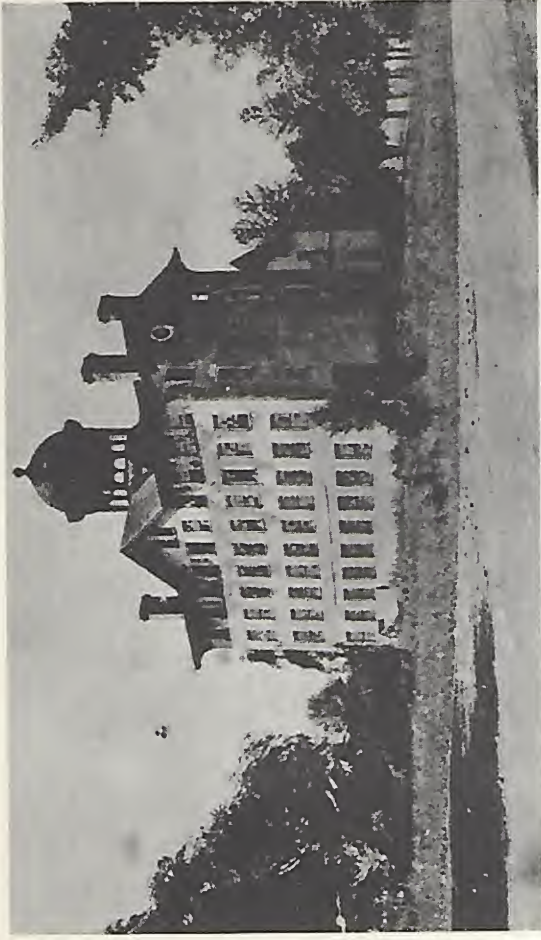
In the spring of 1721, many notables used the Landing (at the foot of South Street) in their travels upriver. They were the famous Jesuit, Charles the lieutenant-governor Longueuil of Montreal, and the most intriguing of all, a Recollet father named Durant, who was in the "pay" of the British. The governor and his party were parlaying with the Indians for the establishment of a fort at the mouth of the river, Father Durant was busy writing notes and gaining confidences of the local workers. When he learned that the French had received sufficient guarantees for the building of a "house of peace" (which is now the castle at Fort Niagara), he made his way overland to Albany via the Oswego River. There he reported his findings to Governor Burnet, who sent him on to London to convince the Board of Trade of the necessity to halt the French advance in Western New York. When the British established an outpost at Oswego, it was recognized that the work of the "Spy of Niagara" was complete.

Joncaire retaliated to the establishment of a post at Oswego by initiating the building of Fort Niagara (at Youngstown) and Fort Little Niagara (at Niagara Falls) to insure his trading rights and control of the frontier. The fur trade was booming. Brandy remained the main item of exchange for prime beaver pelts. The British pushed hard in their attempts to drive the Indians. Finally, low prices and cheap rum did convince the Indians from Mackinac to cross the portage and go to Oswego. This involved the frontier in an economic war which was not resolved until the termination of the French and Indian conflicts. The British were victorious!

About 1750, the French in an effort to hold their trade on the upper Mississippi, began a series of raids on the English colonies making the portage an access route to the Ohio and Virginia settlements. With the formal declaration of war, Western New York again became a staging area for troops and supplies in 1754. Fort Niagara was enlarged and more troops were brought in to bolster the garrison. Troops of Carignan regiment were stationed at Lewiston and Fort Little Niagara. Without the Seneca neighbors to work the materials over the portage, the French cause would have been doomed. It was at this time that the French cut a road from the ridge to the upper crest of the ridge. A series of capstains and booms were placed on various levels to ease the transfer of boats and goods up the face of the "mountain." Wagons and oxen were introduced in numbers to supplement the Senecas who were employed to help, receiving at the end of each work day a ration of tobacco and brandy for their efforts.

The Rise of British Power . . .

The British gained supremacy in Indian diplomacy through the good offices of William Johnson, who upon the demise of Joncaire in 1739, became the "greatest influence" in the colony of New York. His ability to control and manipulate Indians in an honest manner won the friendship of the Mohawks—protectors of the "Eastern Door." However, the Senecas remained loyal to the French, while other members of the League were in their affiliations during the French and Indian Wars. In 1758, the British at New York decided on an all-out offensive to seize Fort Niagara and the portage. Montcalm, the famous French general, arrived and recommended the enlargement of Fort Niagara. More troops were added to the



The Old Academy, Lewiston, N.Y.

summer General Prideaux and William Johnson's (now a major-general) combined regular and militia units, plus a large body of Indians landed at Four Mile Creek and besieged Fort Niagara. Captain Pouchot, commandant of the fort sent for reinforcements as far as Mackinac, and ordered that they report immediately. When these troops arrived, they marched directly into ambush on the river road between Lewiston and Youngstown. Eleven hundred soldiers, cour-de-bois, trappers and renegades, ran into the trap at "La Belle Famille" only to be routed, killed or captured. When an Indian, who left the battle early, reported to Pouchot that his relief column was lost, the fort was surrendered. The white banner with the gold fleur-de-lis was exchanged for the Union Jack and now the British control of the portage was a *faite accompli*. The defeat of Montcalm at Quebec a short time later entrenched the British as masters of all Canada.

The British command at Fort Niagara passed to William Johnson, who immediately held conferences with his Indian allies. He broke the news the military was rebuilding the blockhouses at Lewiston and Little Niagara. He further reported that the military was also replacing the Seneca manpower in the transfer of material on the portage. The Senecas resented the British use of troops since it deprived them of their very livelihood. For years they had become converted to the white man's ways and now could no longer survive on the hunt.

With the advent of Pontiac's Rebellion in 1763, the Senecas immediately became his allies. They first besieged Fort Niagara unsuccessfully, but later did a fine job of harassing and delaying the troops that were

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was their finest hour. It was the greatest blow for Pontiac on the Niagara Frontier. One afternoon, in September, as the armed convoy was returning from Fort Schlosser to Lewiston, the Senecas attacked from ambush at Devil's Hole. In a matter of minutes, Honayewus, an active Seneca war chief, and his braves dispatched men, animals, and wagons over the gorge into the Niagara River. William Johnson's official report of the incident is quoted:—"This moment I have received an express informing me that an officer and twenty-four men who were escorting wagons and ox-teams over the carrying place at Niagara, had been attacked and entirely defeated, together with two companies of Colonel Wilmo's regiment, who marched to sustain them. Our loss on this occasion consists of Lieuts Campbell, Frazier, and Roscoe of the Regulars; Captain Johnson and Lieut. Drayton of the Provincials; and sixty privates killed with about eight or nine wounded. The enemy, who are supposed to be Senecas of the Chenussio (Genesee), scalped all the dead, took all their clothes, arms, and ammunition, and threw several of their bodies down a precipice."

Pontiac finally gave up the siege of Detroit in 1764. Johnson summoned all Indians to Fort Niagara for a council. The Senecas were punished for their participation with Pontiac by being forced to give up four miles of land on each side of the Niagara River from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie. This insured the British absolute control over the portage.

Captain Montrossor, the Royal Engineer, was summoned to plan an easier portage operation. He first built a series of blockhouses at mile intervals from Lewiston to Fort Schlosser. Then he built a tramway from the water's edge (at Fourth Street today) to the crest of the ridge. It was a

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little over 400 feet in length with cars counterbalanced for easier operation. No longer plagued by the fear of the Indians, the portage road became the major trade route of the British Empire until 1796.

While the war of the Revolution was passing up and down the east coast, the British and their Indian allies were organizing raiding parties at Fort Niagara. In and around Lewiston, the Mohawks and many of Butler's men built log cabins. Both sides of the Niagara River became staging areas again for men and supplies. Here came John Butler, Colonel of his infamous Butler's Rangers; Joseph Brant and his Mohawk warriors; Sir Guy Johnson, colonel of the Johnson Greens, and all the Oneida, Onondaga, and Seneca allies. Some of the Senecas that lived in this area, under the patronage of George Washington, and the leadership of Farmers Brother, the leader of the attack at Devil's Hole, swore their allegiance to the Continental Congress and were forced to leave their homes in Western New York. The blood lust of the British and their Mohawks spread terror through the Wyoming and Cherry Vallies and as far east as the Mohawk Valley. Things became so bad, orders came out for an all out offensive to rid the Indians from this frontier and seize Fort Niagara. General Sullivan was appointed commander of this punitive force. He defeated the combined British and Indian forces at the Genesee River, after having burned all of the Indian lands north of the Susquehanna. The Indians in a state of shock and starvation "repaired" to Fort Niagara and this locale for succor and safety.

American Emergence . . .

When the Revolution was finally concluded between the British Crown and the Continental Congress, the Indians learned to their sorrow that they were never given any consideration by either side. However, Joseph Brant built himself a log house at the edge of the village, (corner of Ridge and Creek Roads), and settled his Mohawks on the **Landing** and along the Ridge Road. While the British controlled Fort Niagara, the Indians now found work on the portage and Montessor's "railroad" up the hill. Other Indians eked out a living at fishing to help supply the food necessary for the Tories, who were now making their way here by the hundreds.

In 1790, looking at the Lower Landing from the Queenston side of the river, one found a dock, the base of the tramway, a few log huts belonging to the Mohawks, and one log tavern. At this tavern, drovers from the east, Tories awaiting land on the west side of the river, Indians, traders, and trappers were refreshed and entertained. The demand for livestock was tremendous. Silas Hopkins, an early settler here first visited the Landing in 1788, and reported selling his stock at \$20 for a cow and \$50 for an ox. Rustlers and highwaymen plagued the drovers who returned east after selling their stock. Yet, many of the early drovers returned and became the earliest settlers of this area. They not only drank at Martin Middaugh's tavern, but bought furs from the traders. Before leaving for home many purchased or picked cranberries from the swamps that lined the Ridge Road.

The Landing was such a busy place, that in 1791, Governor Simcoe of Upper Canada commanded "a ferry service be instituted between the Lower Landings on both sides of the River Niagara complete with ferry



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Lewiston, New York 14097

from land titles, poor roads and accommodations, and the innocuous fish travel permits. People could travel by boat faster and more comfortably, but this mode of transportation was both limited and expensive. To bite the hardships many Pennsylvanians and Virginians crossed here Canada to purchase the "shilling an acre" lands offered by the British. Tories and Indians who squatted from Lewiston to Youngstown were in grants of lands in Canada for their loyalty and service to the British during the Revolutionary War. By 1796, these peoples were all gone the traffic through here became a trickle of what it once had been.

By 1796 most of the Indian titles on lands west of the Genesee had been cleared and purchased by Robert Morris of Revolutionary War fame. Three million acres became known as the Holland Land Purchase. The survey of lots and townships was completed in 1804 and the land thrown on the market for settlement and development. The price for this land was 10 per acre, unimproved. The initial survey teams, which arrived here in 1799, found that the swamps were infested with mosquitoes and malaria and it was not safe for man or beast.

"The project of a town upon the Niagara River was early entertained by the State. In 1798, the Surveyor General, Simon DeWitt, was directed by the Legislature to 'select, survey, and report on the location of a town on the Niagara, on lands where the Indian titles had been extinguished.' He reported in favor of the site of Lewiston, wherein subsequent plotting of the strip, a square mile was reserved to the State." Joseph Ellicott actually surveyed the site of Lewiston at the request of Simon DeWitt. It was surveyed in lots by Joseph Annin in 1805.

The first permanent settlers began to arrive in what was to become the town and Village of Lewiston about 1800. At that time we find the following people already in "residence." They were Frederick Woodman, Tom McKeade, Thomas Hustler and wife, Henry Hough, William Gambol, Henry Mella, Martin Middaugh, Joseph and John Howell. John Mt. Pleasant, an early Indian settler wrote: "Martin Middaugh came to Lewiston from the Mohawk River in 1788 (actually 1784). He and his family took over a Mohawk cabin and operated a tavern at the Landing site. When the survey teams cleared him a squatter, he vacated his premises and moved to Buffalo." In 1798 Oliver Culver, Esq. writes that "he helped cut out the road from Pennsylvania across the Reserve. On his way up he was taken sick at Buffalo—no physician to be had—Middaugh's wife took care of him." Records show that he operated a tavern in a double log house and the tax of 1800 shows him to be one of twelve "taxable inhabitants" in Buffalo. He was named highway overseer in the newly created Town of Batavia in March, 1803. On same list of overseers we find the names of Benjamin Hurton, Timothy Hopkins, Orlando Hopkins, and William Blackman, all early settlers of the Town of Lewiston. Martin Middaugh died shortly after his appointment in a bar-room brawl.

Mt. Pleasant further relates:—"Hank Huff (Hough) and Hank Mills were early at Lewiston. Huff had a Mohawk wife, and used to live in the house that Brant left." Henry Mills is reputed to have built himself a small cabin on the Landing and "worked for wages at any endeavor." Tom McBride, also an early squatter built a tannery near the river's edge in 1798. However, he purchased the land when it was offered for sale, and remained



THE ANNIN MAP OF LEWISTON

1816

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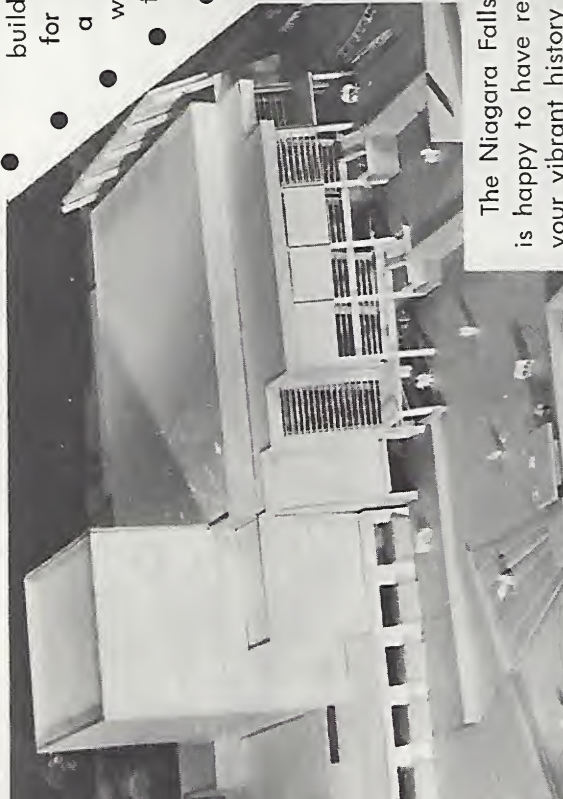
Lewiston:

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of
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glorious
past.

1822 LEWISTON 1972

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for
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One of the most colorful and earliest settlers here was Captain Lemuel Cooke. He had been a first sergeant in the army and was stationed at Fort Niagara. He operated the ferry between Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) and Youngstown for the army. In 1799 he took his discharge and came to Lewiston to live. He went east and returned in 1802 with his family. He and his sons, Bates, Lathrup, and Isaac built a small cabin near the site of Joncaire's Magasin Royal and lived there until lands were offered for sale. He operated the Lewiston-Queenston ferry until 1805. In 1803, he was the first to buy property in Township 14, Range 8, which just happened to be the site of Joseph Brant's old blockhouse. Here the Cookes built a respectable home and became farmers.

Perhaps the most prominent business man among the earliest settlers was Benjamin Barton. He was born in Sussex County, New Jersey, in 1771. Orasmus Turner, in his *History of the Holland Land Purchase* relates that:—"Major Barton, at the age of seventeen—in the year 1787—accompanied his father to assist in driving a drove of cattle and sheep purchased for the use of the British Commissariat at Niagara. The Indian trail was the only overland route and proved most difficult . . . He bought property in Canadaigua . . . and there married in 1792 . . . As soon as the Mile Strip on the Niagara River was surveyed into farm and village lots, by the State who was the owner, he attended the sale . . . at Albany, in 1805 . . . Under the firm of Porter, Barton and Co., they commenced the carrying trade around the Niagara Falls, on the American side . . . this was the first regular and connected line of forwarders that ever did business from tide-water to Lake Erie on the American side of the Niagara River." He moved his family to Lewiston in 1807.

Stauffer

CHEMICALS

Medical Men of Lewiston

The earliest medical practitioner to arrive in Lewiston was Dr. Joseph Alvord. He and his wife followed the Bartons here from Canandaigua. He was a cripple and had difficulty sitting on a horse, but he managed to care for patients as far away as Wilson and Newfane. Dr. Alvord was succeeded in the village by a Scot, named Dr. Watson, who came from Canada after serving there with the British army; but he never practiced medicine here. Instead he was the village schoolmaster, until he was replaced by Jonas Harrison. In 1810, a young man named Willard Smith arrived in the village, and was taken into partnership with Dr. Alvord. May of 1812, Dr. Smith marched off to Buffalo, to be sworn into the 163rd regiment as surgeon, with Colonel Silas Hopkins commanding the militia. He returned here after the war to learn that his partnership was dissolved, because of the death of Dr. Alvord, at the hands of the Indians during the burning of Lewiston in 1813.

Dr. Willard, as he was known, carried on the practice of medicine in the village alone, except for the assistance of Dr. Patterson, an Indian from the reservation. In 1821, Dr. Gideon Frisbee opened a drug store, here Dr. Alderman's office now stands, and soon after his arrival was taken into partnership by Dr. Smith. This joint venture ended in 1835 with the death of Dr. Frisbee. Dr. William McCollum came from Porter to Lewiston in 1834 and the following year became the partner of Dr. Smith, and they remained partners until 1845, when Dr. McCollum moved to Lockport.

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Dr. Ambrose Thomas, an early practitioner, of Niagara Falls, moved to Lewiston in 1837 and remained until 1855. In 1843, Dr. George P. Eddy Sr., arrived and remained a few years and then moved to the Falls. The 1850's appeared to be transitory for medical men. Doctors Cole and Whittaker came in 1854 and left for Buffalo in 1856. Doctors Coon, Graves, Crosswell and Welch did not remain in the village very long.

The physicians practicing in Lewiston in 1870 were: Dr. Edward Smith, son of the late Willard Smith, M.D.; Dr. George P. Eddy, Jr.; and Dr. Milton Robinson, son of John Robinson, pioneer lumberman of Lewiston.

In 1889, a young doctor of twenty-five read an ad in one of the medical journals which read: "Going practice for sale. Apply Mrs. Smith, Lewiston, N.Y." This he did, and with the help of a relative, Dr. Thomas Kerr, bought the practice and became the town doctor. At that time the Smith office was located in a small building next to Dr. Selzer's office. Dr. Kerr did not like the arrangement at all. He moved his family into the Sherbourne Piper home, and built himself a new home and office on Fifth Street (now the home and office of Dr. George Glaser). Dr. Kerr practiced his profession fifty-one years. In 1947 he was honored by the Lewiston-Queenston Rotary Club and the New York State Medical Society. Dr. Henry Alderman came into the village in 1935 and Dr. Hans Selzer in 1945. Lewiston now has several medical doctors who practice in the village but live in the town.

The Village of Lewiston saw the creation of the Niagara County Medical Society in June of 1823. The County Sheriff at that time, Almon H. Millard, conceived the idea of the society and summoned all the physicians

Lewiston Democrats

SALUTE

The Village of Lewiston

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

James F. Mudd	Chairman	Aloysius Mitchell
John A. Hindle	Vice Chairman	Theresa M. Mudd
Lester M. Gilliam	Vice Chairman	Thomas P. Napier
Sarah J. Orner	Secretary-Treasurer	Harold G. Orner
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Barbara A. Boeck	Frances Gilliam	
Edward M. Briggs	Joan Gipp	
Nicholas Caggiano	A. Jack Howard	
Paul F. Cole	Donald H. Mandia	
	Alexander J. Mikula	

VILLAGE COMMITTEE
John A. Hindle
James D. Hailey
John E. Mann

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convene at the holding of the court on the first Tuesday of June that
The practitioners who came were: Willard Smith, Lloyd Smith, John
ner, Darius Shaw, William Reynale, Gideon Frisbee, Myron Orton,
y Maxwell, Stephen M. Potter, Martin Johnson, Alexander H. Butter-
and Edwin Arnold.

They decided that the society should meet again the following Febru-
in Lewiston, and the following June in Lockport. After 1825, with the
pletion of the Court House in Lockport, all meetings were held in that

The first officers elected were: Willard Smith, president; John Warner,
president; Myron Orton, treasurer; Darius Shaw, secretary; Henry
well, Martin Johnson, Stephen M. Potter, Lloyd Smith and W. H. Rey-
censors.

Dr. Willard Smith served as president of the society until 1827. The
president to serve from Lewiston was Dr. George P. Eddy, Jr., in 1871.



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The Presbyterian Church, one of the old landmarks at Lewiston, N.Y.

Religious Groups in Lewiston

PRESBYTERIANS

THE INITIAL BEGINNING —

To organize a church in Lewiston in January, 1817, was truly an act of courage and faith. Not until some time in 1815 had enough of those who had fled from the destruction of the village in December 1813, returned to make the place once more worthy of the name of village. Moreover, there were those who opposed formation of a church, and they included some of the most prominent and well-to-do.

Nevertheless, on January 20, 1817, five people, meeting at the home of Jonas Sealy, made public confession of their faith in Christ and adopted the confession of faith as held by the Presbyterian Church. The five were Aaron Childs and his wife Lucy; John Robinson and his wife Elizabeth; and Polly Huggins. They were moved to action by the Rev. Miles Squier, a missionary from Buffalo. Records do not show why Mr. Sealy, who lent his house for the meeting, did not join then, nor, apparently, at any other time, as his name does not again appear.

By April 6 of the same year, when the first communion was celebrated, the congregation had grown to eleven; and each of the founding couples had a baby to be baptized: Asa Burton Childs and Wilson Robinson. Mr. Childs and Mr. Robinson were among the first trustees, and Mr. Childs was a delegate to the Geneva Presbytery meeting at Ovid. Mr. Squier continued to minister to the new congregation.

THE FIRST MINISTER

In July, the new church was moved into the Niagara Presbytery and

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ard to ordain the Rev. David M. Smith and appoint him the first regular minister. Mr. Smith was a teacher. He later in 1825 served on the building committee of the Lewiston Academy and then became its first principal; he was also clerk of the session of the Lewiston church, and continued so for two years after his ordination. He seems to have been a man of manifold activities and much energy: he built the upright section of what was for so long the Boardman Scovell house, (now the Hayman house) and lived there; he was active in the Masonic Order; when the time for building came, he was a member of the church's building committee and took a four-months' trip to raise money for it; and he assisted in the organization of Presbyterian congregations in Niagara Falls, Cambria, Wilson and the Town of Porter. On his fund-raising trip, he went as far afield as Boston, Albany and Hartford, making personal pleas and using newspaper advertising. He raised \$594, but the trip itself cost \$134. He also brought back a contributed load of lumber, but the church building was not far enough along to use it, and it was sold to the Academy for \$500, the money going for stones to complete the foundation of the church.

CORNERSTONE LAID IN 1830

The building committee was not formed until 1826, and included, besides Mr. Smith, Benjamin Barton and Amos Tryon. In the meantime, the church services were held in members' houses, the annual meeting in the schoolhouse. Robert Nichols was the stonemason in charge, and it was he who purchased the cornerstone in Queenston in 1830, paying \$1.50 plus transportation. It was laid later the same year. The walls that rose slowly

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also of stone, two and a half feet thick. Building was a slow and cult matter; even after the walls were up, time lapsed before a roof was achieved, and the congregation met under the open sky. Yet there were many who volunteered both work and materials. Eight years after building was started, the first funeral held in the still incomplete church was that of the same Robert Nichols, and his family and friends sat on boards laid on blocks at his funeral service.

But progress was made, and in 1835 the first annual meeting was held at the church instead of the schoolhouse, and there were new pews to sit on. These were the box pews so common in New England churches, and they were sold at auction, the money to be used to pay the minister. Later the church rented for \$100, \$50, \$25 and \$15, still for the minister's salary.

The building was heated by then, too. Two stoves were bought in 1837 for \$22, but the 321 feet of stovepipe needed to connect them, and the cost of transportation to get it all to Lewiston, brought the cost to \$90. With so little money, the congregation contracted to let other denominations use it part of the time: on alternate Sundays, the Episcopalians had the morning service, the Methodists met in the afternoon, the Baptists in the evening.

THE CHURCH BODY DIVIDED

It was not Mr. Smith who was paid by the auctioning of the pews. The disastrous Morgan affair that nearly destroyed Masonry in 1828 also split the church in two. Mr. Smith had been an active Mason. There is no evi-

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dence in the church records as to whether he was in any way involved in, or even alerted to, the incident at the Frontier House, but he could hardly stand aloof entirely. His resignation found the divided church with only 11 members left, and there followed a period in which there was no regular minister, but a series of missionaries from Upper Canada and Niagara Presbyteries. Names include the Rev. Josiah Parkington, Herbert Reed, Joel Byington, Nathaniel W. Fisher. The Rev. John Keep stayed a year, then Mr. Byington came back and was followed by Rees C. Evans and Norris Bull, each for two or three years only.

BUILDING AUCTIONED

Building and development went forward, despite the irregularity of ministry. By 1837, the total cost of the church building had reached \$3,520.79, but it was not until 1839 that clear title to the land on which it stood was obtained. This was by act of the New York State Legislature, permitting the village trustees to sell the lot to the Church Society. The deed was executed the following year. Other financial difficulties continued to mount, and in 1844 the church was to be sold for a mortgage of \$664.69 held by Henry and Elizabeth Tanner. The building was auctioned for \$100 from the steps of the Frontier House on June 12, 1844. It was bought by Ira and Clarissa Woolson, who immediately sold it back to the church society for \$101. To obtain more money, the church sought and obtained from the Court of Chancery, permission to sell 100 acres of land deeded to them in 1822 by the Holland Land Company. This was bought by Benjamin Hewitt for \$18 an acre.

It is small wonder that it was hard going: in 1835, the membership was only 30, and it climbed very slowly. But by 1848 the Rev. Alexander McColl was obtained as minister, and stayed until 1855, to be succeeded by the Rev. Joshua Cooke, a Lewiston native who came back to the village from a church in St. Catharines and remained for eleven years.

BELL ADDED

Thanks to the sale of land to Mr. Hewitt, it was possible to undertake repairs and redecorating. The center door was blocked off and replaced by the present two entrances; the steeple and the Doric columns were added. A bell was hung in the steeple, and again resulted in some financial involvement; but for many years the bell was rung at 7 a.m., 12 noon and 9 p.m., William Partington, Oliver P. Scovell and John Fleming making themselves responsible for alternating at the task of ringing it on time. It proved so popular, even beyond the boundaries of Lewiston, that when the practice of ringing it was temporarily discontinued, people in Queenston asked to have it resumed.

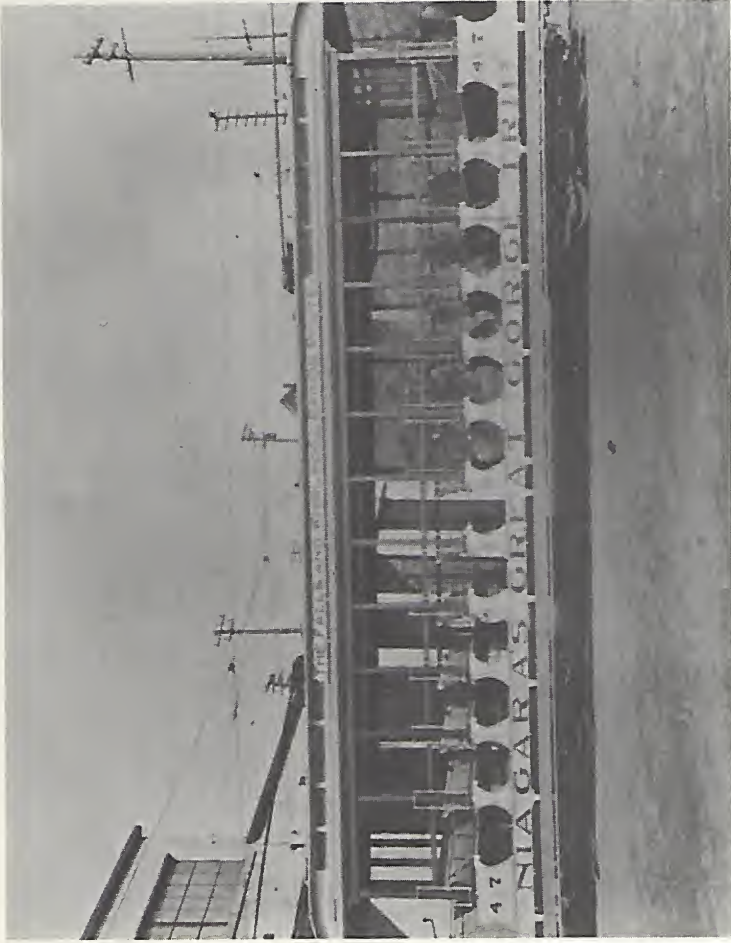
Interior remodelling included removal of a gallery at the back and the substitution of a raised semi-circular orchestra for the choir, to be reached by a small stair on the east side. The pulpit was also elevated quite high, with a flight of stairs for reaching it and a little door with which the minister closed himself in. This was lowered bit by bit across the years to its present situation. At the same time, pews were painted and hanging lamps installed. The Ladies' Society of the church, wishing to contribute toward the work, raised \$72, about half of it by the traditional method of a church

When the Rev. Mr. Cooke left the ministry of the Lewiston church in 1875, he was succeeded by a Mr. Merwin, who stayed about three years and left no record of anything. In 1870 Mr. Jeremiah Odell became minister, remaining for eleven years. Under his guidance, the manse property was bought and in 1875 the building completed. Mr. Odell was away at the time of completion, so that his substitute, the Rev. Samuel Plant, was actually the first to live in the manse.

A year later, individual church members built sheds on the lot behind the manse, receiving a deed and key to the shed each had built, but retention was contingent on the owner rendering adequate support to the church. In 1917, writing for the church's Centennial, Miss M. Gazelle Hoffman says, "Nearly all of us remember how these sheds blew down during the Rev. Rudolph C. Stoll's pastorate (1908-11) and were replaced by the present ones which are open to all." No later mention is made of what came of "the present ones."

CHURCH AT LOW EBB

In 1881, the Rev. Levi G. Marsh replaced Mr. Odell. Progress went right on. In 1882, \$1,000 was raised for new windows, and the stoves were replaced by a furnace. In 1885, \$1,200 was subscribed for new straight pews and a new organ, and the pews that were installed were rented instead of auctioned. But then things went downhill for a while. The Rev. John Ross became minister of the Lewiston Presbyterian Church in 1900,



NIAGARA GREAT GORGE TRIP

and old-timers recall that the church was at a low ebb when he arrived, being regarded as little more than a mission church. Miss Isabel Cornell, an attendant in Mr. Ross's day, says that her Sunday School class, of which Mrs. Townsend was teacher, often met in the cemetery in the summertime. She also recalls the somewhat informal nature of services in that day: the family dachshund was wont to follow her and her sisters to service, and sit quietly in the pew with them. Once, however, when an especially long prayer was offered by one of the elders, the dog yawned loudly, and Mr. Ross had difficulty keeping a straight face at the apparent comment.

Mr. Ross seems to have given renewed impetus to all the church's activities, and this continued into the pastorate of the Rev. Manley Allbright, under whom a committee of Frank S. Hall, Dr. T. A. Kerr, and William Powell, circulated a subscription list to raise \$1,500 to excavate the basement of the church. This work, completed in 1907, provided Sunday School rooms for the first time, as well as additional space variously described as "church parlors" and "facilities for community social work."

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Rev. Mr. Allbright was succeeded by the Rev. Rudolph Stoll, who served from 1908 to 1911, then by the Rev. George C. Noetting, who was still minister when the church celebrated its Centennial in 1917, with exercises and commemorative addresses from which some of the preceding material is drawn. At that time, the Sunday School had 15 officers and

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1917 saw other improvements in the physical plant: the manse got a hot water heating system and the exterior was redecorated. That year, Mr. Noeling was succeeded by the Rev. Smith Ordway, who remained until 1924, when the Rev. Gordon Neufang began his ministry at the Lewisiston church. He was ordained the next year.

Two years later the basement was excavated under the whole building, the front of the church was strengthened, and the oil burner was installed. As with other building and improvements, much of the labor was bluntheered.

EXPANSION AGAIN

Mr. Neufang remained until 1942, then Dr. George H. Bost came from the University of Chicago theological seminary. In 1944, the church again outgrew its physical capacity, a building committee of Carl Brownell, Warren Morgan, Mrs. William Mitchell, Leo Hapeman, and a little later Lewis Wyckoff, was appointed.

Hemmed in as it was by two streets and the village cemetery, additional building space looked at first like an insurmountable obstacle. Eventually, under the leadership of Karl Brownell, the possibility of using the "Potter's Field" part of the cemetery, lying directly behind the church, was found feasible, and the social hall and kitchen, with additional Sunday School rooms above, were built. There was, of course, some feeling about the use of cemetery land, and notes of that date contain reference to "the skirmish of the Cemetery." The new building was dedicated in May,

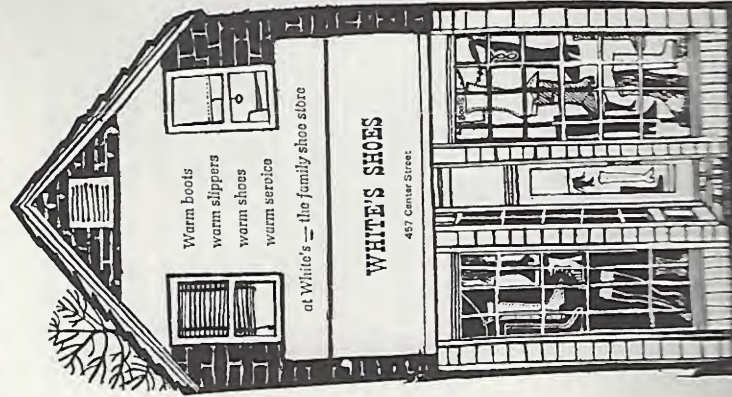
1953, and a new organ, the gift of the Sage family, in November of the same year.

LATEST ADDITION

Dr. Bost retired in 1954, and the church was without a minister for a full year, until the Rev. Paul L. Denise accepted the call and took up his Lewisiston ministry in 1955. A large group of families was waiting to join the church when Mr. Denise became minister, and growth was so great in succeeding years that again it became necessary to plan for enlargement. The result has been the addition of a new building on land acquired from the James Duncan estate and connected to the historic "Stone Church" by relocating S. 5th Street and building a connecting structure across the old roadway. If the removal of part of the cemetery was a skirmish, the relocation of Fifth Street might perhaps be termed a battle, but one of legal complications largely. It involved the village board and the state legislature in an argument on problems of ownership and right to grant permission for the needed change, and passed back and forth so many times that for a time no one knew who had authority about what.

Eventually all problems of roadway were solved, new Fifth Street was constructed, and the new church building was ready for its cornerstone laying on September 12, 1965. Assisting at this function was Owen Duncan Gidlow, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Gidlow, and a seventh generation descendant of the Robert Nichols who obtained the original cornerstone for the first Lewiston Presbyterian Church.

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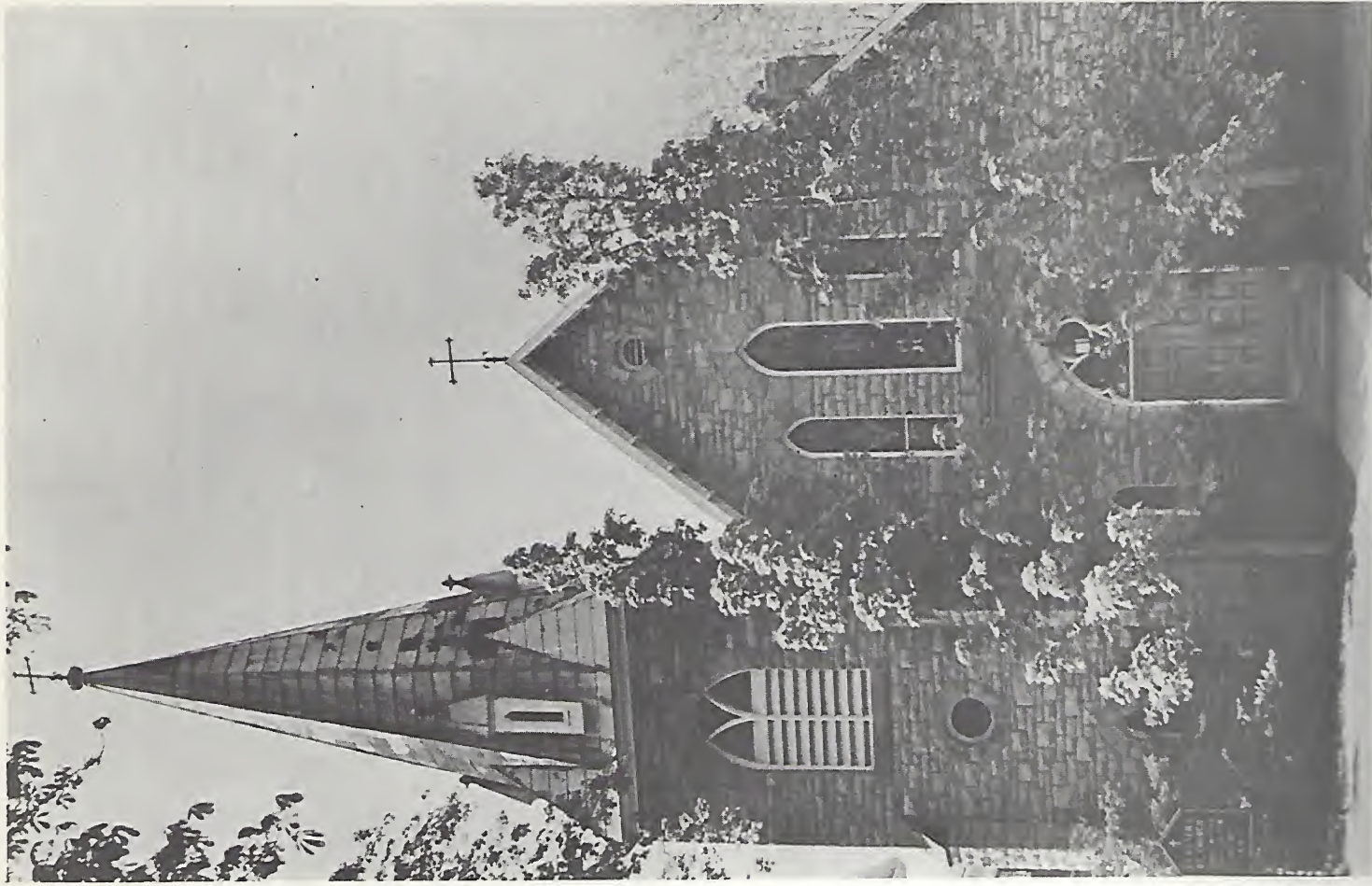
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ST. PETER'S CHURCH 1901-1970

CATHOLICS

The Catholic Church and the French explorer in the vicinity of Lewiston, were almost one from the very beginning. It was "law" at the time of LaSalle and other early explorers to include a priest, for the conversion of the "red" savage, in their party. So from the very earliest times of recorded history missionaries have been associated with the portage of Onguara.

The earliest Catholic priest in the area was Father de la Roche Dailion, a Franciscan, who arrived here in 1626. He was followed by the Jesuits Brebeuf and Chaumonot in 1640. These men made attempts to convert the Neuters of this area, but their preachings fell on deaf ears. Although these men probably said Mass here, as they were obligated to do by their orders, the first record of Mass being celebrated was by Father Hennepin, one of LaSalle's party. He said Mass at the landing after having built a rude bark chapel.

The French troops, who always traveled with a chaplain, were known to have attended the sacraments at Fort Niagara and then returned for duty at Lewiston. When the fort fell to the British in 1759, the spiritual needs of the Catholic troops in the British army and the few Catholics that came through this area were taken care of by the traveling missionaries from Albany and New York. Governor Simcoe was the first officer of the British to insist on attendance at Catholic Mass for his troops. Until a church was built at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Mass was celebrated at Navy Hall. The Church of St. Vincent de Paul served troops, Loyalists, and Lewistonians to about 1850. The earliest record of an English-speaking priest was Reverend Edward Burke in 1794. He later was transferred to Nova Scotia where he became Vicar Apostolic.

In 1844 the Diocese of Buffalo was created on orders from the Archbishop of Baltimore, and Father Timon was brought from Toronto to become the first Bishop of Buffalo. In 1847 he established the parish of St. Peter's in Lewiston, which included Youngstown and part of Niagara Falls. Catholic life in Lewiston and Youngstown was interwoven due to the small number of Catholics. With the westward movement of the railroad crews, the Catholic Irish appeared in sufficient numbers to warrant a parish.

It is recorded in June of 1848, Bishop Timon heard confessions, said Mass, and confirmed 24 persons in the Universalist Church, which is now an apartment house on Center Street. The Catholics shared this building with the Methodists, but because of the debates over the hours and use, the Catholics returned to the custom of saying Mass in the homes of various parishioners.

With the increase of railroad workers, as Lewiston now had become a fair-sized railroad community, Father William Stephens, the first pastor of the parish, collected \$250 to purchase the land from the Baptist Church on Plain Street. (The site of the old St. Peter's Church and the rectory.) The parishioners built a low white wooden building with a steeple themselves. It was complete with stained glass windows and organ. The first baptism in St. Peter's parish was performed in April 1851. Father Stephens baptized and welcomed into the Church Ellena Price, infant daughter of Martin and Anna Egan Price. In August of the same year he married George McSpadden and Julia Nolan, the first couple married in the parish.

The parish continued to grow, and by 1900 a new church was needed. By this time the Barrato property, next door to the little white church had

built by the parishioners under the supervision of Father Henry Dolan at a cost of \$8600. Father Dolan, dressed in working garb, led the parishioners to the quarry to quarry the stone and personally supervised the hauling of it to Plain Street. Mass was celebrated in the then new St. Peter's in 1901.

The rectory was completed during the administration of Father Bray in 1907. Father Bray was always interested in Niagara Frontier history, and while stationed in Lewiston, began a collection of books on the subject that is second to none in the land. In his will he left this collection to St. John's Seminary with the provision that the collection never be broken.

Father Stephens was succeeded in 1856 by Father William Hughes, who remained in the parish but two years. Father Abraham J. Ryan, C.M., a Vincentian, doubled as parish priest and post chaplain at Fort Niagara for the years 1858-59. Late in 1859, Father Charles Tierney was called to Lewiston, but was replaced by Vincentian Fathers in 1860. From 1862-64, Father H. Mulholland; 1864-65, Father P. A. Malloy; and Father John Touhey, a Civil War Chaplain served from 1865 through 1869. Father J. J. Baxter came in 1870 and was succeeded in 1871 by Father J. Brady. Father Maurice O'Shea was pastor in 1871-74; Father R. B. Gratten from 1875-76; Father T. D. Johnson from 1876-80; and Father O'Shea returned in 1880 and remained until 1884. Father P. F. Mullaney, 1884-98, was succeeded by the Vincentians, with Father T. P. Lynch as pastor until 1901.

Father Henry Dolan was pastor in 1901 when the old St. Peter's was built and remained until 1903. He was succeeded by Father Bray, who built the present rectory and left in 1910. Priests who followed Father Bray were: Michael J. Kelly, 1910-13; Michael J. Tobin, 1913-15; George A. Crimin, 1915-17; John J. Keane, 1917-30; James A. Lanagan, 1930-47; Michael J. Campbell, 1947-57, and Edwin Cuddihy, 1957 to date.

It was during the tenure of Father Michael J. Campbell that the property on Center Street was acquired. The old Sherbourne Piper home is now Hennepin Hall. Father Campbell began the first St. Peter's School in Hennepin Hall in 1953, which was replaced by the present school building in 1958.

The most recent addition to the churches in the Village of Lewiston, and perhaps the most controversial in many years, is the new St. Peter's Church located at Sixth and Center Streets. This new church was dedicated by Bishop McNulty in 1970.

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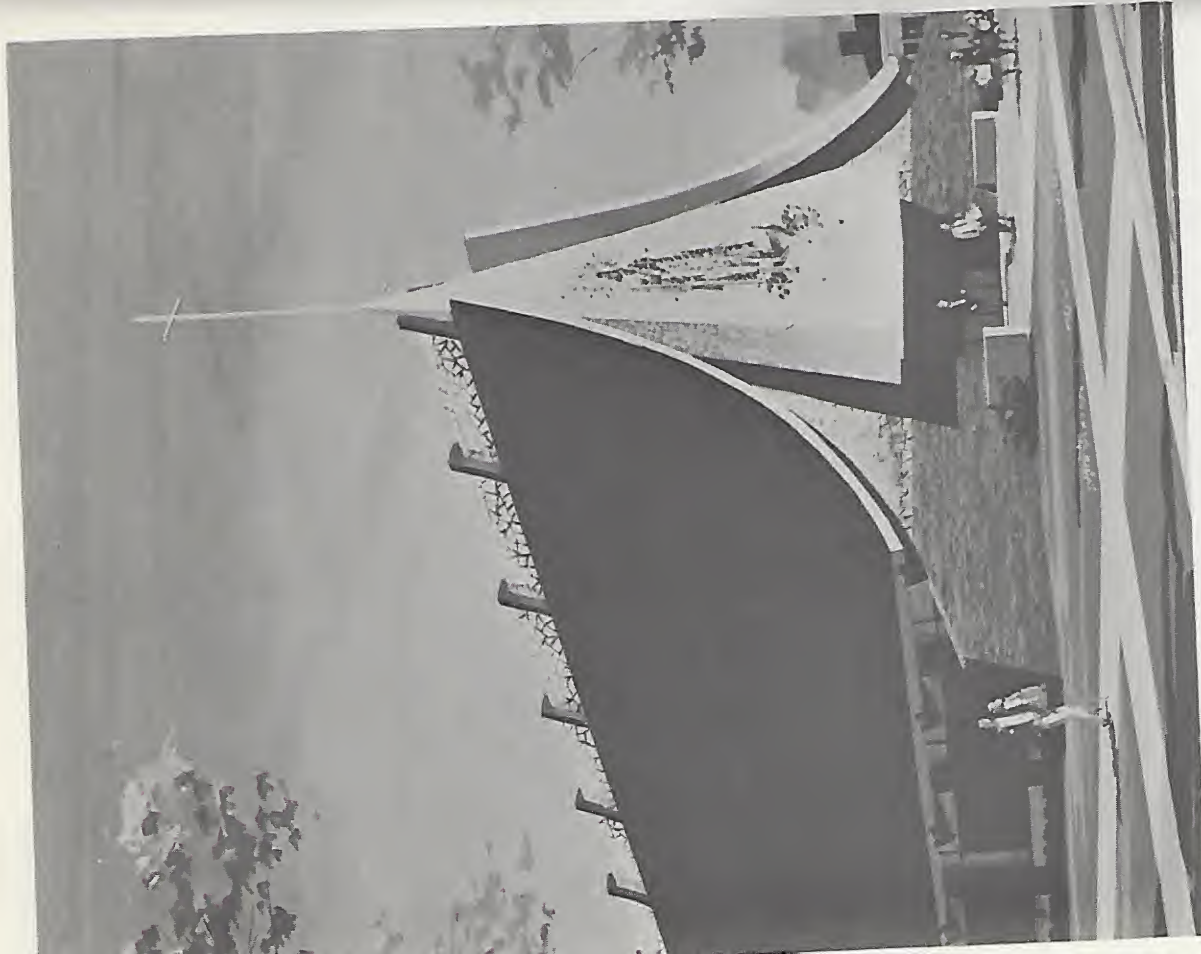
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EPISCOPALIANS

St. Paul's Episcopal Church was the second organized Church in the area, only ten years younger than the Village of Lewiston, but, the history of Episcopal services probably goes back to the days of British occupation at Fort Niagara. There are no records of services. However, in 1780, Joseph Brant, famed leader of the Mohawks who remained loyal to the British cause, set up a Mohawk Village just beyond the present intersection of Hillside Drive and Creek Rd. Brant built a Chapel near his home, where Anglican services were held. In 1784, the Rev. John Stuart, a Loyalist missionary visited the Village and reported baptising more than a hundred Indians from the Six Nations. He restored to the Mohawks the Silver Communion Service, given them in 1712 by Queen Anne and the Bell from the Chapel of the Mohawks at Ft. Hunter, both of which had been buried for safe-keeping. These, used at Lewiston until 1786 are still used at the Chapel of the Mohawks, Brantford, Ont.

About 1828, after the Lewiston Religious Society (founded in 1817 with five Charter Members) was torn by dissension over an anti-Masonic movement sweeping the country, the Rev. David Smith, a Mason, was forced to resign.

In 1826, the construction of the present Presbyterian Church had already begun, but the withdrawal of the Rev. Mr. Smith and several of his Masonic followers, left its completion to the remnants of the Lewiston Religious Society. The followers of Mr. Smith formed the Episcopal Church of Lewiston. Tradition has it that the small group of Episcopalians worshipped in a small building on the property of the Rev. Mr. Smith, at the corner of Fifth and Plain Sts., now owned by Richard Hayman. Later, they held services in the stone district school on what is now Academy Park, of which Mr. Smith became principal in 1826.

The Rt. Rev. Benjamin Onderdonk, Bishop of The Diocese of New York, visited Lewiston, and on December 11, 1831, the Rev. John M. Robertson arrived to preside over the congregation. On January 16, 1832, at a meeting in the Stone-School, the Parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was officially incorporated, under the Religious Corporation Act of the State of New York. By a majority of voices, Aschel Lyon and Oliver Grace, were elected Wardens and Samuel Barton, George W. Shockey, Obed Smith, George W. Hawley, Odenathus Hill, Henry L. Franklin, Guy Reynolds and Horatio J. Stowe, Vestrymen.

In the short time the Rev. Mr. Robertson was in the Parish, he baptised at least twelve persons, and officiated at the weddings of two of the Vestrymen, Dr. O. Hill and Miss Sarah Rees, and Mr. Guy Reynolds and Miss Caroline Jackson. He left August 23.

On December 1st the Rev. Robert Davis was appointed Missionary, and on December 22nd a meeting was held at Colt's Tavern, near the Devil's Hole. Oliver Grace, Aschel Lyon and Guy Reynolds were appointed to serve as a building committee. On March 30th, 1833, plans for a Church were submitted and approved. But, once again, their plans were unsuccessful, and the Rev. Mr. Davis left the Parish in August. For a period of 16 months, the Parish had no leader until the arrival of the Rev. Samuel McBurney on November 27, 1834. Records indicate that the first Communicants were Oliver Grace, Mrs. Sarah Grace, Mrs. Hannah Lee,

On Easter Monday, April 20, 1835, the Parish met for the first time since 1832, to elect a new Vestry. Oliver Grace and William Miller were elected Wardens, and Vestrymen were Aschel Lyon, Benjamin Barton, Noah Beach, Alexander Millar, John E. Lasher, Jonathan Bell, Guy Reynolds and Jared H. Randall. Grace, Lyon and Bell were appointed a committee to solicit again, subscriptions for building a Church. That same month, a Sunday School was organized with an enrollment of 30 children.

A building committee was again appointed: John B. Ives, Oliver Grace, and John E. Lasher, and once again, plans and estimates were presented. A building lot was purchased at the corner of Niagara and Plain Sts. (the north half of Lot #264 of the Village of Lewiston) for \$500, and on July 23rd of that year, the cornerstone was laid, with appropriate service and address by the Rev. Henry J. Whitehouse, D.D., Rector of St. Luke's Church, Rochester, and Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Michigan. Records show that he either gave, or brought, a contribution of \$100 for the building fund.

In spite of the "anxious hopes" that the Rev. Mr. McBurney remain, bolstered by an offer of \$250 for the first year, and hopes of an increase the following year, in August, the Parish again found itself without a leader. Nevertheless, work on the new Church did continue. In January, 1836, the Vestry voted that "the sum of \$1,904.00 be allowed Dennis Harrison, for building the Church, and \$122.82 be allowed James Wilson for extra work on the Church." (In the cornerstone document, Harrison was designated as "carpenter and contractor" and Wilson as "Mason.")

In February of that year, the Rev. Rufus Murray was called to the Parish, with a guarantee of \$500 for the first year, including the missionary allowance from the Diocese, presumably \$200., since the salary is later referred to as being "\$300, exclusive of the missionary stipend."

A grant of \$600 enabled the Building Committee to complete the Church without debt. On September 15, 1836, Bishop Onderdonk consecrated St. Paul's Church. At the same time, he confirmed a class of twelve persons, including Mrs. Hannah Lee, William Miller, one of the Wardens, and a Vestryman, Jonathan Bell, all of whom were included in the list of the first communicants of the Parish, the year before.

The Church, completed in 1836, was a rectangular, white clapboard building, with small windows of plain glass. Inside, there were high box pews and an Altar of White Pine with two plaques hanging on either side, one inscribed with the Lord's Prayer, the other with the Ten Commandments. At the rear of the Church, the north side fronting on Plain St., a vestibule ran the width, from which stairs led to a balcony Choir Loft. There was a Vestry Room in the basement. The accounting, made by the Chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. Grace, in 1844, showed that the total cost of the building itself, was \$2,558.52, the Organ cost \$400. and the bell, \$175.59. Total expenses, including the building lot and Mr. Grace's trip to New York, amounted to \$3,663.05. Since total receipts, including \$1,836.35, from the sale of slips (pews), were \$3,546.52, it is apparent that the Chairman of the Building Committee must have advanced the difference from his own pocket.

During this early period of St. Paul's history, the name which appears most often in its records, is that of Oliver Grace. He was buried on May 14, 1874, at the age of 73, in the Lewiston Cemetery.

When Rev. Rufus Murray presented his resignation on August 4th, 1845, the Vestry appointed a committee to raise the \$1,600 they owed him.

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William C. Gillick

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Robert J. Kirby

"when you came to this Parish nearly ten years ago, the Church was in its infancy, numbering fourteen communicants. That there is now within its fold, about fifty communicants, is sufficient evidence of the fidelity with which you have labored among us." If anything, their praise was an understatement, for his careful records in the register, show that while he was Rector of St. Paul's, he baptised 162 persons and presented 73 for Confirmation, including, in 1840, John and Eliza Robinson, two of the five Charter Members of the Lewiston Religious Society, in 1817. He officiated at 80 burials, among them in 1837, those of "child of a stranger" and "a stranger" and, in 1841, again "a stranger." Since this was the term commonly used for passengers of the Underground Railroad, these entries suggest the importance of Lewiston as a station on the way to Canada and freedom. The Rev. Mr. Murray also solemnized 119 marriages, of which 56 were couples from across the border. Evidently, Lewiston was the popular place of the day to which to come to be married.

The Rev. Mr. Murray was succeeded by the Rev. Amos C. Treadway, at a salary of \$400 a year. Two years later, the Vestry found itself unable to raise the money for his salary and so advised both the Rector and Bishop William DeLancey of the Diocese of Western New York. However, the finances of the Parish took a temporary turn for the better, and the Rector remained. The Vestry even felt able to paint and repair the Church, but, by December 1849, they were still unable to pay him what they owed him, for past services, up to September, although they were able to pay current salary. At the same time, they were struggling with the matter of their indebtedness to Oliver Grace. By March 1851, the situation had become so acute, that the clerk was directed to notify all the known creditors of the Vestry, of its inability to meet its indebtedness. When the Rev. Mr. Treadway finally resigned in April of 1852, Capt. James VanCleve a Vestryman, paid the indebtedness to the departing Clergyman of \$372.29, receiving the Church Lot as a pledge. At the same time, Capt. VanCleve resigned from the Vestry. In April of the following year the Vestry had raised the sum required, and received from James VanCleve and Harriet Barton VanCleve, a warranty deed for the north half of lot 264, upon which the Church stood.

The next Rector was L. W. Russ, who stayed until 1858. When he left, the Vestry entered into an arrangement for part time services by the Rev. Israel Foote, of Niagara Falls. In 1861, the Parish again had a full-time Rector, at the salary of \$475.00, exclusive of the missionary stipend, the Rev. J. H. Havens, who served for two years, and held services in Youngstown. The Rev. Rollo Page, followed and in 1868, the Rev. George Skinner was called, remaining until November 1873.

For several years, the Parish had only part-time services of Clergy from Buffalo and DeVeaux College, in Niagara Falls. In 1878, the Parish was again able to have a Rector, sharing the Rev. George W. Knapp, with St. John's, Youngstown, each paying \$300, plus its missionary stipend of \$100, allowed by the Diocese. The same arrangement was continued when the Rev. John S. Seibold came in 1882. During his service, until 1886, four members of the parish, John Calkins, Leander K. Scovell, Lewis Hull and George Hotchkiss, took turns driving the Rector, by horse and buggy, for services in Youngstown. In 1887, the Rev. E. Stuart Jones answered a joint call of the two parishes, each to raise half of the salary of \$1,000. The Vestry of St. Paul's also voted \$100 to pay the Rector's rent, and expressed thanks to Willard Hopkins for furnishing a horse for the



By 1889, the Parish of St. Paul's began to feel the need of larger quarters, and in March of that year, the Vestry decided that if \$1,000 could be raised in nine months, "a stone Church, costing not more than \$5,000 could be possible." When, after canvassing 61 families, pledges from 21 of them added only \$851.00, a memorial window, 56 cords of stone and three days' digging, it was decided to enlarge the old Church, at a cost of not more than \$950.

The old Church was extended to the south about 20 ft., a one floor addition supported by stone pillars. The choir loft was removed and the clock vestibule eliminated, to provide further space. The old windows and box pews were sold, and pointed pseudo-windows, and oak pews were installed, allowing for center and side aisles. The old fence was torn down, and willow trees removed, and grounds graded.

Before improvements were completed, the Rector died in February, 1900, and was succeeded by the Rev. James Roy, D.D. Again, the two parishes shared salary and services, \$450 each, one half of the house lot and, together, furnished a horse and buggy. When Bishop E. Cleveland and Cox visited the Parish in August of that year for Confirmation, at the time, he rededicated the enlarged St. Paul's.

For some years after Dr. Roy's resignation, in 1891, the Parish had a series of Rectors, who stayed for short periods only, usually serving both Lewiston and Youngstown. In 1917, the Rev. John Sheppard came to the Parishes and remained until his death in Youngstown in 1932, but, Paul's had been closed for some years before his death.

In 1934, the Rev. Harold C. Kellerman, then a deacon, came to the two parishes. On Sunday, December 2, although actually organized for 102 years, the centenary of the Parish was observed, with the Rt. Rev. Cameron Davis preaching to a capacity congregation. On Easter Monday, Warrenton and Vestrymen were elected, regular services were resumed, and a Church School was organized. With gifts from the Parish matched by equal amount from the Diocese, the organ and furnace were repaired, the Church roofed, and the exterior repainted. In May 1936, for the first time in many years, lay delegates represented the Parish at the Diocesan Convention.

The Rev. Mr. Kellerman was succeeded in 1936 by the Rev. W. Edmund Dixon, who left the Parish seven years later. Again, the Parish was without a Rector for two years, when the Diocese sent the Rev. Alanson Davis to serve as part-time Vicar in-charge, until the Rev. William Shannon, came in 1946, to be full-time Rector. While he was in the Parish, the Vestry purchased a house on Ridge St., the first time in its history that it had owned a Rectory. In 1950, the Rev. Robert Emerson Davis became Rector, and in 1952, he was succeeded by James E. Wells, Jr., a former member of the Parish who was then a deacon. The following year he was ordained to the Priesthood.

With the growth of the Village, in the years immediately following World War II, St. Paul's experienced a substantial increase of membership, which taxed the capacity of the old Church. In 1952 it was decided that a new Church was needed. Under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Wells, a successful fund-raising campaign enabled the Parish to build the present Church, at the corner of Fourth and Ridge Sts. On April 4, 1954, Rt. Rev. Lauriston L. Seafie, officiated at the ground-breaking ceremony.

the new cornerstone, with the cornerstone of the old Church, with its original contents, placed at the southwest corner of the new building.

The building of the new Church marked the beginning of a new era in the history of St. Paul's. The Rev. Mr. Wells served the Parish until September 1959. His successor was the Rev. William F. Staton, who remained until January 1969. In 1961, the unfinished second floor of the new building was completed, to provide a Rector's Study, and a Library. In the summer of 1969, the Parish purchased a new Rectory at 419 Cherry Lane. In October 1969, the present Rector, the Rev. Richard A. Norris, came to lead the Parish.

When the present building of St. Paul's was dedicated by Bishop Scaife on October 16, 1955, it brought a number of links to its past — the Baptismal Font, given in 1890; the original bell, installed in the Church when it was consecrated in 1836, was placed in the belfry of the new building, and still summons the congregation to worship; a brass missal stand, used in the new chapel; the brass altar cross given in 1898 — all rest in the present building. These links to the past remind St. Paul's of its 140 years as part of the life of Lewiston, and point the way to continued dedication and service.

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BAPTISTS

In 1953 the First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls, New York, under the leadership of Rev. H. Victor Kane, envisioned a branch or mission church of the Baptist faith established in Lewiston.

To reduce the dream to actuality the Niagara Falls church purchased, in 1954, the dwelling and large land area at 630 Ridge Road, just outside the Lewiston Village limits, from Campbell Robertson and remodeled the house into a sanctuary, Sunday School rooms, and an apartment for the minister. A major part of the remodeling was done by the church members.

The original membership consisted of the transferring to Lewiston 81 members of First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls who resided in the Lewiston area.

The first service was held in the new church on March 27, 1955 under the leadership of Rev. Donald A. Robinson, the first pastor who remained until July 1, 1956.

The Lewiston Baptist Church was incorporated on July 24, 1956 as a separate church entity and severed its dependence on the First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls.

Rev. Robinson was succeeded by Rev. Lester L. Hunt who came to the church from East Pembroke, New York, and remained until December 1, 1959.

Rev. Carl E. Dawkins became pastor in December 1960 and during his pastorate the church lost its Ridge Road property to the New York State road building program and was forced on short notice to vacate the premises.

The former Lutheran Church at Niagara and Plain Streets in Lewiston was vacant and was rented as a temporary church home, but purchase was made of the property in 1962.

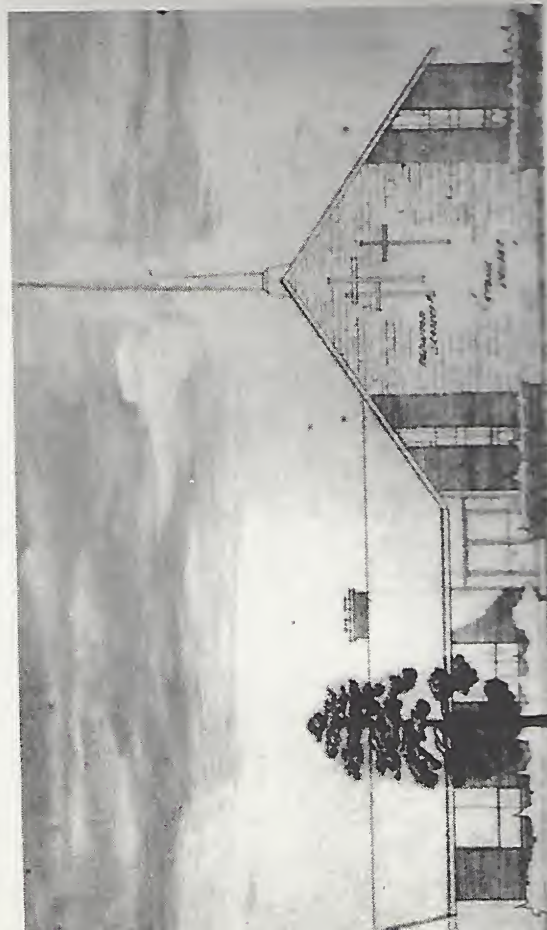
Rev. Dawkins retired on June 30, 1965 and the church was without a permanent pastor until January 15, 1967 when the present pastor, Rev. George H. Kraft, was called. In the interim the church was capably served by Rev. Alfred Scipione.

Under the leadership of Rev. Kraft, the church activities expanded and the present church edifice is inadequate for the needs of the Sunday School and for church social programs.

Early in 1970 a plot of ground of approximately three acres was purchased on Creek Road, near Scovell Drive, and plans are actively underway to build a modern up-to-date structure that will provide ample room for today's membership, Sunday School and the required programs and also provide adequate space for future growth in all areas of church ac-



LEWISTON BAPTIST CHURCH, LEWISTON, NEW YORK



WE ARE BUILDING

The Lutheran Church of the Messiah had its beginnings with a preliminary survey conducted in April 1953 under the auspices of the Board of American Missions of the Lutheran Church in America. On October 1, 1953, Rev. Howard A. Lenhardt, Field Missionary of the LCA moved into the station area to begin the task of organizing the new congregation.

During the organizational phase, Zion Lutheran Church, Niagara New York, acted for the prospective church. She rented St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Lewiston for the new congregation. During construction of the new Episcopal Church, both congregations agreed to use the building on Plain and Niagara Streets.

The first service of worship was held on November 15, 1953. The formal service of organization was held in Zion Church, Niagara Falls, on May 9, 1954. At this meeting the congregation adopted its constitution, its budget, voted to purchase the St. Paul's Church Building and elected its first Church Council, with Dr. Arthur A. Levine, President. Messiah is indebted grateful to her mother church, under the guidance of the Reverend Arthur Schmoyer, Pastor, and Mr. Charles Obenhack, President, for spiritual and material strength which gave Messiah a healthy beginning and a prosperous future.

The first regularly called Pastor of the new congregation was the Reverend Francis K. Wagschal who came in February 1955 and served January 1959. During his ministry Church property was purchased on Waddell Street, 4 acres, from Mrs. Elizabeth Waddell. Two services of worship were also begun in 1956 to accommodate the growing congregation. A building commission was appointed to study the establishment of a new building on the acquired property.

In September 1959, the Reverend Milan J. Slahor became the second pastor of the new Messiah Church. During his pastorate the congregation has completed two building programs. The first included the present sanctuary and parish hall, dedicated on April 29, 1961, the second an educational unit, put into use in September 1970. The present building encompasses approximately 15,000 square feet and are valued above \$100,000. The former sanctuary on Plain and Niagara Streets was sold to the Plain and Niagara Baptist Church. This fine, sturdy building has thus far housed three varied congregations.

The Lutheran Church of the Messiah continues to grow and serve the Port community. Spacious and modern, it combines the heritage of the past with the convenience of today in a sincere attempt to provide christian education and education on the highest plane available. During its years of existence it has almost tripled in membership. Today there are 531 adults and 757 baptized members serving their Lord and their fellowman through

Sesquicentennial Events

MAY 14, 1972

Walk to Church Sunday

MAY 20, 1972

Sesquicentennial Parade 2:00 P.M.
 Flag Presentation after parade at Academy Park
 Costume Balls 9:00 P.M.
 (5 locations)

MAY 21, 1972

Ecumenical Service 4:00 P.M.
 Foot of Center St. on bank of Niagara River

JUNE 3 AND 4, 1972

Historical Tours 2:00-7:00 P.M.

JUNE 6, 1972

Pop Concert at Academy Park 7:00 P.M.



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The Old Days of Lewiston

The year 1796 saw the departure of British troops from Fort Niagara. Few people realize that there were also British troops stationed in the limits of the present village of Lewiston, even though it was not known by that name. There was a small garrison near the Ferry House, which was erected by Lord Simcoe, near the end of Fourth Street, and the duty was "to protect and operate the tramway from the lower landing to the crest of the mountain." It had an additional duty of guarding any horse or ox drawn wagon train to Schlosser. Another detachment of soldiers was located at the top of the tramway at the corner of Fort Gray Drive and Lewiston Road (approximately). The departure of these troops officially placed "the mile strip," territory one mile wide from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario as part of New York State.

The Legislature of the State of New York in 1798, instructed its surveyor-general, Simeon De Witt, to create a village on the Niagara River, one mile square, "at an early date." De Witt selected Joseph Elliott, chief surveyor of the Holland Land Company, "to seek out the location and lay out the village." By 1805, Joseph Annin had laid out the village in lots, which were offered for sale.

The reason for the delay of the sale of the lots in the village until 1805 was land title. The State of New York finally obtained clear title to the "mile strip" by treaty at Albany in 1802. Lewiston fell into "that part of said strip, from Schlosser to Lake Ontario, that is the entire portage having heretofore been treated by the United States in their treaties with the Indians as having been British territory, free from any Indian claim, under their surrender or deed of it to Sir William Johnson in 1764, and hence belonging to the United States at the end of the Revolution."

In 1805 the State of New York offered the "Mile Strip" with certain exceptions for sale. The exceptions included 600 acres at the mouth of the river, where Fort Niagara stands today; the mile square at Lewiston, this being the foot of the portage; and 600 acres known as the "Stedman Farm" on the upper river, including the upper terminus of the portage.

The State had advertised in various newspapers that it would "lease the landing places at Lewiston and Schlosser, together with the lands exempted from sale at each place, and the exclusive rights of the portage." "The conditions were an efficient transportation service, the supervision of the portage charges by the State, and the erection by the lessees of warehouses, docks, etc., at each terminal; which improvements were to become the property of the State at the expiration of the lease." The responsible bidder, accepting these terms for the shortest number of years, was to secure the lease, which amounted to a practical monopoly of the vast transportation to and from the west.

Porter, Barton and Company secured this lease. Their time limit was thirteen years. They had no time to waste and immediately built their warehouses and docks. Their counter part Townsend, Bronson and Company, were located at Rochesters, Sacketts Harbor and Ogdensburg. These four men virtually controlled the shipping of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie for at least twenty years; these same four men had control of all the military contracts for provisions at the various posts on the Great Lakes. Benjamin Barton had secured these contracts at Canadaigua before he came to Lewiston.

Through the lease it held from the State, the partnership of Porter, Barton and Company, provided wagons

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1940-41—Rev. W. E. Nixon	1956-57—Dick MacDonald
1941-42—A. D. Armstrong	1957-58—George Vanderhoek
1942-43—Harold Bass	1958-59—Walt McCollum
1943-44—Fred Murphy	1959-60—C. Vern Mestler
1944-45—Wally Armstrong	1960-61—Roy A. Barr
1945-46—Charles Treichler	1961-62—Wm. J. McLaughlin
1946-47—Walter Reese	1962-63—Ian H. S. Fraser
1947-48—R. E. Casselman	1963-64—Richard Cary, Jr.
1948-49—A. T. Minnis	1964-65—Charles O. Dodson, Jr.
1949-50—Joe McKeivitt	1965-66—Ross C. Johnson
1950-51—Tom Mathias	1966-67—Samuel N. Bruni
1951-52—Bob Davis	1967-68—Lauren L. Pond
1952-53—Frank Manchester	1968-69—Richard R. Hall
1953-53—Chet Farrell	1969-70—Albert Dimino
1953-54—Howard Maurer	1970-71—John McGrath
1954-55—Arlie O'Kelly	

and ox-teams for the transportation of all goods between Lewiston and Schlosser, also owned and operated boats between Schlosser and Black Rock and had major interests in many vessels that sailed on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Through its connections with firms in Oswego, Schenectady, and New York, they were the first firm to transship goods from tidewater to Chicago and Mackinac. In addition to this type of shipping their ships carried pelts of the American Fur Company, the Northwest Fur Company, and many important Indian traders to the eastern ports.

In the year 1806, it is recorded that there was an ice-jam of great proportion on the Niagara River. It swept away a tannery, a saw mill, and all the warehouses and docks. This must have made the landing a desolate mess. Perhaps this is why travelers referred to Lewiston as a "shabby American settlement." Nevertheless, the docks and warehouses were quickly rebuilt to continue the "carrying trade." The village the following year is described: "It contained two small frame and five or six log houses. The ground on either side of Main Street, for a short distance, was cleared and fenced in, and corn and other grain was grown upon it." Still people came to settle in this little village.

John Latta, Benjamin Barton's brother-in-law, arrived here in 1807. He immediately built a tannery, which he operated until it was burned out in the War of 1812. Thomas and Kate Hustler were by now well known tavern keepers. Joshua Fairbanks and Alexander Millar were merchants. Lemuel Cooke had purchased his land on the old Brant farm and left the waterfront area. There was an apothecary named Dorman and a schoolmaster named Dr. Watson. Jesse Beach, who arrived here, in 1803, had just bought his land from the Holland Land Company and moved out into the town to farm. John Robinson, who

had come from Mifflin, Pennsylvania, was settled on his lot 11. The next year he was to build a saw mill and became a prosperous lumber man. Asahel Sage followed Beach out the Ridge Road to his farm. Caleb Raymond and Isaac Hull, both blacksmiths were busy making farm implements.

Niagara County and the Town of Cambria were created by the same act of the Legislature, March 8, 1808. Pool states: "It will be seen that the town of Cambria included precisely the territory now embraced by Niagara County. The seat of the town government was Cambria Center, almost the geographical center of the town."

The first town meeting was held at the home of Joseph P. Hewitt, with Robert Lee presiding, on April 5, 1808. Joseph Hewitt was elected supervisor; Jonas Harrison, town clerk; Robert Lee, Benjamin Barton, and Charles Wilbur, commissioners of highways; Lemuel Cooke, Silas Hopkins, and John Dunn, assessors; Stephen Hopkins, collector; Philomen Baldwin and Thos. Slayton, overseers of the poor; Stephen Hopkins, Ray March, Stephen Baldwin, and Alexander Haskin, constables; Enoch Hitchcock for the eastern school district, and Thomas Hustler for the western school district. The men of Lewiston were involved in local politics.

The prosperity of Lewiston seemed to depend a great deal at this time on the Porter, Barton and Company. The portage and carrying trade increased steadily and 1808 many lake schooners and a few steamers began to make regularly scheduled stops at Lewiston. The dock area had been extended from Fourth Street to the foot of Center Street. Many people had purchased land and were moving onto their farms. The business along Center Street was not feeling a pinch at the moment. However, 1808, was the year that the troubles with the British Empire began to reach into Lewis-

and it was reported that they received 500 lashes. The feelings of our people became so aroused at this insolent mode of capturing deserters they determined to stop it. I remember one moonlight we were all aroused by the blowing of horns, telling us that the Indians had captured some deserters. This alarm proved false. However, very shortly after the alarm, Sergeant MacDonald, who was in charge of 25 men at Queenston, came over with three or four men to hunt down the deserters. The party of irate citizens captured them and were about starting them off to jail at Batavia, when a committee of some of the leading men in Canada came across the river. An agreement was made with the people that no more soldiers would be sent to our side, or Indians employed to capture deserters. The matter rested for some time. The English faithfully kept their compact with the pioneers of Lewiston."

going on." The upshot of the matter was that the project was a failure. The gang from Canada had to leave a good share of the property, which fell into the hands of the fair-minded citizens of Lewiston.

Another incident is reported by an early resident:—"The British soldiers of the 41st Regiment were stationed at Fort George, in 1808. From time to time some of the men deserted and sought safety in New York. In order to check this, if possible, the Indians on this side of the river were hired by the British officers to arrest them and carry them back to the British authorities. I have seen a large number of British soldiers—20 or more—sent over the river, tramping with impunity up and down Main Street in Lewiston, inquiring and searching for deserters. The Indians caught two, and took them back through Lewiston in the night, and over the river to Fort George. They were severely flogged,

"What will be the result of our present unsettled relations with the neighboring republic," writes Brock in 1808 "it is very difficult to say!" "The government is composed of such unprincipled men, that to calculate on it by the ordinary rules of action would be absurd. We have completely outwitted Jefferson, and all his schemes to provoke us to war. He had no other object in view in issuing his restrictive proclamation; but failing in that, he tried what the embargo would produce, and in this he has been foiled again. Certainly our administration is deserving of every praise for their policy on these occasions. Jefferson and his party, however strong the inclination, dare not declare war, and therefore they endeavor to attain their objects by every provocation. A few weeks since the garrison of Niagara fired upon seven merchant boats passing the fort, and actually captured them. Consider-

the new embargo law drastically reduced Canadian shipping and naturally hurt the village.

early authority gave the following incident in the days of the embargo. Dorman, the apothecary, was an interested party. "He had a and potash that were of great use to Canada, but the embargo prohibited their being taken over. On a meeting day, which was on the first Tuesday of April (1808), everyman in the place was attending the meeting, some twelve distant. Dorman had three come from Queenston with twenty or twenty-five men, and with swinging clubs at their sides. They opened the store, and threw the ashes and carried the property down the hill, and it over the river. Having so much to do, they did not quite get through until the men began to return from the meeting, where they got the information of what was

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REBUILDING LEWISTON-QUEENSTON BRIDGE — 1896

the circumstances attending this act, it is but too evident it intended to provoke retaliation." British and Canadians accepted the attack from Fort Niagara with interest and gladly received the rest of their boats. In today's language it would be said that they kept their cool.

Mr. Porter, Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, used the strongest arguments for war in the Congress of the United States in 1812. He spoke against the British in this case both politically and personally. He was deeply involved financially in the mercantile traffic in the Great Lakes, and the embargo was proving to be most restrictive. "These Provinces," said Porter, "are only immensely valuable, but most indispensable to the existence of Great Britain, cut off, as she now is in a great measure, from the commerce of Europe. The exports from

last year to six millions of dollars, in ship-timber, and provisions for support of her fleets and armies." The Napoleonic war was proving the value of Canada to the British Empire.

On May 23, 1812, a meeting was held in a local tavern and it was decided that the local citizens would join the militia and defend their homes. They rode off to Buffalo and were sworn into the 163rd Regiment of the Fifth Brigade, Brigadier General Timothy Hopkins, commanding. The officers sworn in that day were: Silas Hopkins, Lieutenant-colonel, commanding officer; Asahel Sage, First Major; Calvin Bannister, Second Major; Erastus Parks, adjutant; Willard Smith, surgeon; Timothy S. Smith, quartermaster. The following men were captains: Alpheus A. Baldwin, Parkhurst Whitney, Rufus Spaulding, William Scott, and Robert Edmonds. The lieutenants were:

Childs, Scott Jenks, and David Porter. Ensigns appointed were: George Burger, Joseph Murray, Solomon Hersey, Ambrose Doty, and Joseph Weisener. This regiment was stationed and remained at Black Rock for many months.

"There had been forebodings of the event of war in the proceedings of Congress, and in some preliminary preparations; yet the arrival of the news of its actual existence, created consternation and alarm. The proclamation was carried through the country by expresses, which reached Fort Niagara on the 26th of June 1812 . . . The news of the declaration of war had reached Canada 12 hours before it had been received on the frontier. John Jacob Astor, the fur dealer, had sent an express from New York, announcing it to Thomas Clark, Esq., his agent in Queenston. This was a measure of precaution, having reference to the fur trade of the west, and the safety of cargoes of fur that might be coming down the lakes," wrote Coffin. It is alleged that the night before the Battle of Queenston Heights, Clark dispatched all Astor's furs to the American side for safe keeping. In the village it was no secret that Major Barton had ordered the burial of all his fine belongings and had dispatched his family to Canandaigua.

The command of the British forces in Upper Canada passed to General Isaac Brock. His shrewd tactics in the swift defeat of General Hull at Detroit and his defense of Queenston Heights made him a hero in the War of 1812. His early death made him a living memorial to every Canadian and British soldier.

On the "21st of May 1812, there were about six hundred men under arms upon the Niagara Frontier, beside those attached to the garrison at Fort Niagara," wrote Turner. By August 11th, when General Stephen Van Rensselaer assumed command at Lewiston, the total military man power had risen to 6,000. Van Ren-

selaer, having made his headquarters in the little Kelsey's Tavern, immediately laid out his plans for the invasion of Canada. The first objective was the seizure of Queenston Heights and the envelopment of Fort George. His command post was established on the crest of Barton's Hill with a battery of artillery. From this vantage point, he could view both Queenston and the activities north, along the river bank. He ordered his quartermaster to collect "all boats possible" to carry his troops over the river. Thirteen boats belonging to the Porter, Barton and Company were hauled overland from Gill Creek. Captain Lemuel Cooke, and his sons Bates and Lathrop, who had operated the ferry at one time, were acquainted with the tricky current. To them went the honor and privilege of leading the transfer of men.

On the 11th of October 1812, Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer's forces assembled at Lewiston were: Brigadier-General Wadsworth's 1682 militia; Brigadier-General Miller's 588 militia; Lieutenant-Colonel Fenwick's 550 Regulars and Lieutenant-Colonel Christie's 350 Regulars. The militia were raw and inexperienced. Coffin's *Chronicle of the War* related: "General Van Rensselaer, who commanded the whole force, was manifestly under the impression that a good deal of glory was to be got at small risk, and was unwilling to allow the glittering prize to slip through his fingers. He had been informed by a deceitful spy, that Brock had left for the Detroit frontier. He resolved therefore, on the adventure. On the morning of the eleventh of October, an attempt was made, but failed. Boats were wanting—oars were deficient—it rained hard, and the general prospect was disagreeable. The attack on Queenston Heights was, in consequence, deferred." The battle plan was comparatively simple. Two columns of troops were to be thrown across the river, one com-

rratulations . . .

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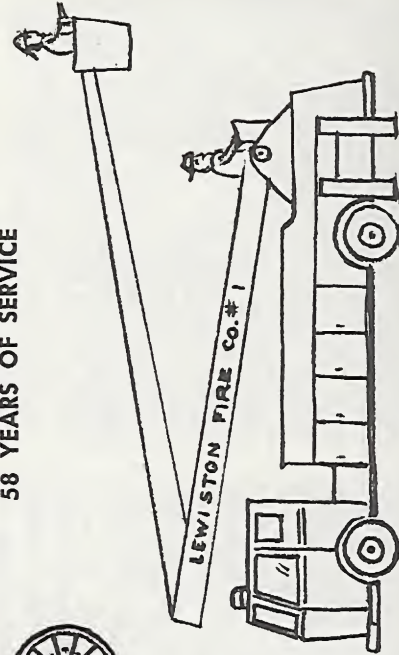
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manded by General Van Rensselaer and the other by Lieut-Colonel Christie, with Lieut-Colonel Fenwick and Major Mullaney in reserve. Colonel Winfield Scott arrived from Black Rock and offered his services. He was turned down. Scott then retired to the command post with the artillery.

At four o'clock on the morning of the 13th of October, all troops were assembled at the dock area for embarkation. The commanders of the American forces were red-faced. There were not enough boats to transport all the troops in one wave. Less than 100 men made the initial landing at Queenston flat, and faced two flank companies of seasoned British troops from the 49th Regiment and the York Militia. Yet the Americans marched steadily forward. There was a fine drizzle and the dampness was felt by the men from both armies.

In a matter of minutes the severe fire from the red-coats had killed or wounded every commissioned officer, including Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer, who at the last minute, replaced his cousin, the General. He sustained himself, to impart the local information he possessed to other officers who had in the meantime come up. In leaving the field his last command was that "all such as could move should immediately mount the hill and storm the batteries." Captain Wool, who became senior officer and though badly wounded, obeyed the order, and his men silenced the battery. The enemy was routed from the heights to the safer and stronger buildings along the water's edge.

The United States forces, certain that victory was in the palm of their hand, immediately fell into disorder, only to realize they had run into Brock and 300 more red-coats. The Americans were forced to the edge of the incline. Captain Wool rallied his men and slowly the British gave way, and retreated down the hill.

sniper's bullet, while attempting to encourage his men in the midst of heavy fire. With the fall of Brock his troops fled in disorder.

At this time Colonel Winfield Scott arrived on the scene. He had been permitted to cross the river in command of 250 Volunteers. He joined forces with 350 Regulars that had arrived earlier. With assistance of Captain Totten, he drew up his men into a strong frontal force, not only to receive and sustain an enemy attack, but also to protect and cover the landing area for additional reinforcements. The night was quiet and rainy.

In the morning the first sound of war came from the guns of Fort George, eight miles downriver. The Americans quickly took up their positions. The Indians and the British engaged the Americans repeatedly, and were finally turning the line, and just when an apparent massacre would result, Scott arrived to rally the men and turn his line right about. The enemy was routed and left the field covered with dead, broken gear, and wounded. When it appeared that an American victory was again sustained, General Sheaffe arrived with 850 Regulars and Militia to save the day for the British.

The American Regulars and Militia under Wadsworth, Stranahan, and Scott, had shared both the dangers and the success of the day. However, a crisis now appeared. The remaining militia refused to cross the river to reinforce the American forces. They panicked at the sound of Indian war cries and stood fast on the Lewiston side. Even if they had wanted to cross it would have been difficult, as there were only a few serviceable boats left of the original thirteen. The result of this cowardice left a force of less than 350 American effectives to face 1300 British regulars, militia, and Indians.

General Sheaffe engaged the

resistance, and was amazed that a small force could put up so much resistance. He managed to break through the American lines, but began his battle slowly, but effectively. The Americans retreated to the river, but finally were forced to give way. Scott decided to attack and sent his messengers to the enemy. When they failed to return, he grabbed his sword, stuck through his handkerchief, and charged off to the enemy with his men of truce. He surrendered his men and the 293 men who actually were in the fight, plus 1,000 militia men in the woods.

The defeat of Queenston Heights was a matter of poor strategy, cowardly militia, and poor logistics; the heroism of Scott, Wool, and Rensselaer had met the situation so well that the press of the nation could carry it almost as well as a victory. However, the irony of the situation was that General Brock, who was killed very early in the battle, came out the hero, not only the day, but for the whole war. His funeral a few days later, the chief mourner was General Sheaffe, one of the pall bearers were Lieutenant Colonel Coffin, Provincial aide-de-camp, and James Coffin, Deputy Assistant Commissary General, and the younger—all United Empire Loyalists.

With the defeat of Queenston Heights the battle scene moved out the area. However, still encamped around Lewiston were some 5,000 troops. The church grounds at Dicksonville were a tent city of New York Volunteers. A commissary unit was found on the present Academy park. The battery of cannon remained on Barton Hill. The flats along the water became a parade ground with watch towers and guards. On the brow of the ridge the guns and tents of Fort Gray remained until 14.

About seven miles north of Lewiston Governor Simcoe built Fort

River, when Fort Niagara was finally returned to the United States. In May of 1813, the Americans besieged this fort. General Winfield Scott, who had been exchanged after his surrender, was in command of the ground forces. He forced General Vincent, the new British commander into an untenable position, who wisely chose the withdrawal route, "to live to fight another day." Scott sent a dispatch to the Secretary of War from Queenston, October 13, 1813:

"We are now on Queenston Heights on the anniversary of Van Rensselaer's battle. By a wonderful coincidence on the very day our gallant militia had stormed and taken the heights and were afterwards foolishly surrendered, a small militia force took possession of the ground without opposition."

Time heals all wounds—even Scott's surrender.

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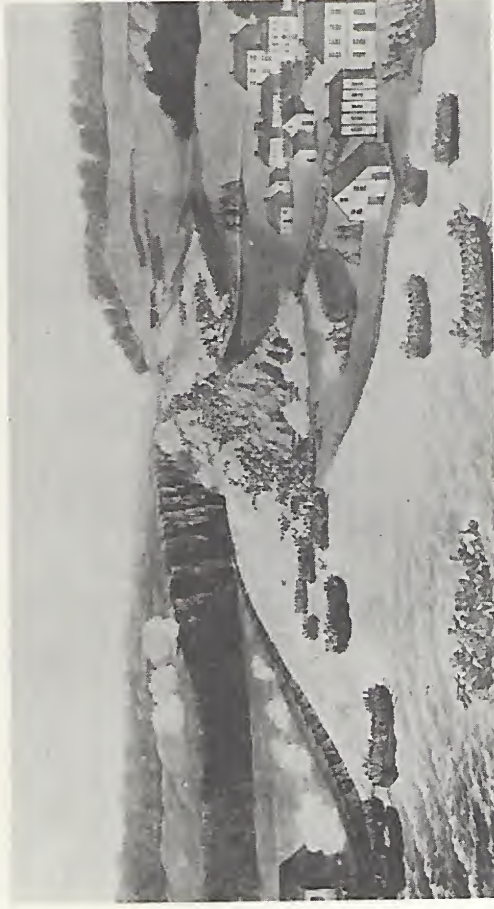
Destruction of Lewiston

General McClure, a political appointee, was placed in command of Fort George, and he found the area cleared from Queenston to Newark. His reinforcements were directed to Fort George via Lewiston and until early November 1813, they were arriving in great numbers. When he learned that the enemy had a force of 3,000 men around Burlington Heights, he sent an appeal for more troops and even offered to share his command with General P. A. Porter, if he would bring up reinforcements.

The British upon learning of the American reinforcements began what appeared to be a retreat towards Kingston. General Harrison, one of the reinforcing Generals embarked for Sacketts Harbor, to cut off the British retreat and recommended that McClure "keep a vigilant eye on the rebels."

... and make use of the local knowledge of Colonel Willcocks." Willcocks had been a member of the Upper Canada Legislative Assembly, but defected early in 1813, and volunteered his services, along with a renegade corps of Canadian Volunteers, to General McClure. British intelligence reported the departure of McClure's reinforcements, and they started a show of force towards Fort George. By December 10, 1813, McClure reported to the Secretary of War:—"This Day found Fort George to be defended by only sixty effective regulars and probably 40 voluntary militia."

Two days before, Lieutenant Colonel Rieves was ordered to Lewiston with a force of six to seven hundred militia to take up defensive positions because, "Our shipping is in imminent danger and no exertion



BATTLE OF QUEENSTON HEIGHTS, OCT. 13, 1812



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will be wanting to protect and defend them." That same day a letter from Lewiston was on the stage to the Manlius Times and reported, "Last evening General McClure ordered Fort George and Newark to be set afire, which was done. The fort was totally destroyed and the village shared the same fate, excepting one or two houses, which were spared for the night on the condition that the owners fire them the next day. The destruction and misery which this dastardly conduct has occasioned is scarcely to be described, women and children being the principal inhabitants have nowhere to place their heads."

McClure's stupid act set the frontier in a very precarious position. Canadian sources felt that Colonel Willcocks had a great deal of influence over McClure and placed some of the blame on him. McClure attempted to excuse himself at his inquiry after the war, with his de-

fense being a letter from the Secretary of War, which read in part: "Understanding that the defense of the post committed to your charge, may render it proper to destroy the town of Newark, you are hereby directed to apprise its inhabitants of this circumstance, and to invite them to remove themselves and their effects to some place of greater safety." McClure's action was disavowed by our government and his report of December 13th, was short and emphatic, "the enemy is much exasperated, and will make an attack on this frontier, if possible." No truer words were ever spoken!

The British wasted no time in retaliation. On the 16th of December Lieutenant-General Drummond and Major General Phineas Riall, arrived at Fort George. They immediately placed into operation their offensive plan and on the night of December 19th, Lieutenant-Colonel John Murray led 550 British regulars across

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Niagara River. Murray seized Niagara without firing a shot. Payonnet had been used most bravely and by morning there were 67 Americans dead and 11 wounded. Murray then proceeded to Youngstown and burn every up the River Road to Lewiston. crossed with companies of the Regiment, the Royal Scots, and was done most effectively. The was totally destroyed except free walls to one house. Chipman early source wrote:—

between the landing and Lewiston, the work of destruction was performed during the night. The next morning there was no to be found, between the realities to relate what had happened. . . . Reaching Lewiston at sunrise, a sudden surprise not only set the inhabitants in commotion, but also caused the precipitated retreat,

without attempting resistance, of a company of militia, who neither showed a soldiers front, nor stood up to duty of an armed citizen. The most savage cruelty was fiendishly enacted upon such as were unable to escape . . . Of the citizens whose names have been kept in memory, the following were reported dead: Dr. Alvord, a pioneer physician, Miles Gillette, William Gardiner, who was scalped, two brothers by the name of Jones, Helen Mead, Thomas Marsh, Tiffany, Finch, a boy Gillette, who was taken prisoner and later found dead."

The attack on Lewiston was Indian fashion. It is true that the militia under Major Bennett retreated, but they did put up a short defense in the retreat with the loss of six or seven men. Two of them were the sons of Horatio Jones, interpreter to the Seneca nation. Horatio had been

captured by the Indians during the Cherry Valley massacres and adopted into the Seneca Nation. His Indian father, at one time, refused the offer of gold for him. In 1790, Jones left the Indian village and settled with his family along the Genesee River. General Washington appointed him interpreter to the Six Nations. The two young Jones were privates in the Militia Company from Batavia.

Dr. Joseph Alvord was the second physician to arrive in Lewiston. The first physician in the village was a Dr. Watson, former British army surgeon, who took the position of schoolmaster in 1806. On the morning of the attack, Dr. Alvord had been assisting Mrs. Gillette and her son, Jarvis, to leave the area. As he mounted his horse he was shot in front of his home at Sixth and Center.

The Gillette family suffered considerably during the burning. Miles Gillette, the boy who was killed the morning of the 19th of December, had been active as a scout in the Battle of Queenston Heights. He had crossed the river on the day of the battle to participate as a skirmisher, and hid behind a stump. He placed his hat on top of it to draw the fire of the Indians. Miles returned the fire with the Indians, but really had no way of knowing how effective he had been. On his return home he did know one thing for sure, the Indian fire had been effective, as his hat was full of holes. On the morning of his death, he had met the first party of Indians, as he was wounded in front of Amos Tryon's house on Center Street. He resolved never to be taken alive. He fired his rifle and killed the chief through the bowels. The Indians shot him through the head as he attempted to escape.

Not far down the street, Solomon Gillette, the father, was being escorted by a patrol of Indians and had witnessed the incident. He asked if

side of the street. His request was granted, but Solomon never told his captors of the relationship. It may be interesting to note that Solomon recognized some of the Indians as being white men painted and dressed for the occasion. Solomon also lost his son Jarvis who was shot while trying to escape with his mother. Gillette, as a prisoner of war was sent to Montreal. There he was compelled to sleep on stone floors with a little straw as a mat. He used his shoes as a pillow.

Mrs. Gillette, very stoically, gathered up her remaining children and became a "hitch-hiker" to the safety of her parents, who lived about 270 miles east. Solomon was released in March of 1815. He walked back to Lewiston; finding no family here, he made his way east to join them. They returned here in early 1816.

Chipman related: "A company of armed Tuscaroras came to the rescue, led by their war-chief Longbeard, Colonel Jacobs, Ovid, and Littlegreen. They had heard the alarm and had seen the light of the torch, but not the enemy. Concealed in a favorite thicket, the Tuscaroras awaited the approach of the enemy, and fired a single volley, which sufficiently surprised the British Indians to cause a retreat and delay, as an advance alarm, that furnished the inhabitants a few lucky minutes to escape the blow of the tomahawk and the thirst of the fatal knife. At this point . . . five (of the attacking party) had preceded the main body on horse back; overtaking an ox-team that was conveying from the scene of death at Lewiston, the invalid Lathrup Cooke, (who had lost a leg as a result of injuries sustained during the Battle of Queenston Heights); his brother Bates Cooke, driving the team, discovering the approach and murderous design, as the leader advanced in feathered garb of a war chief, commanded a halt. The intrepid teamster . . . seized a gun that was upon the sled, and with deliberate aim shot the leader

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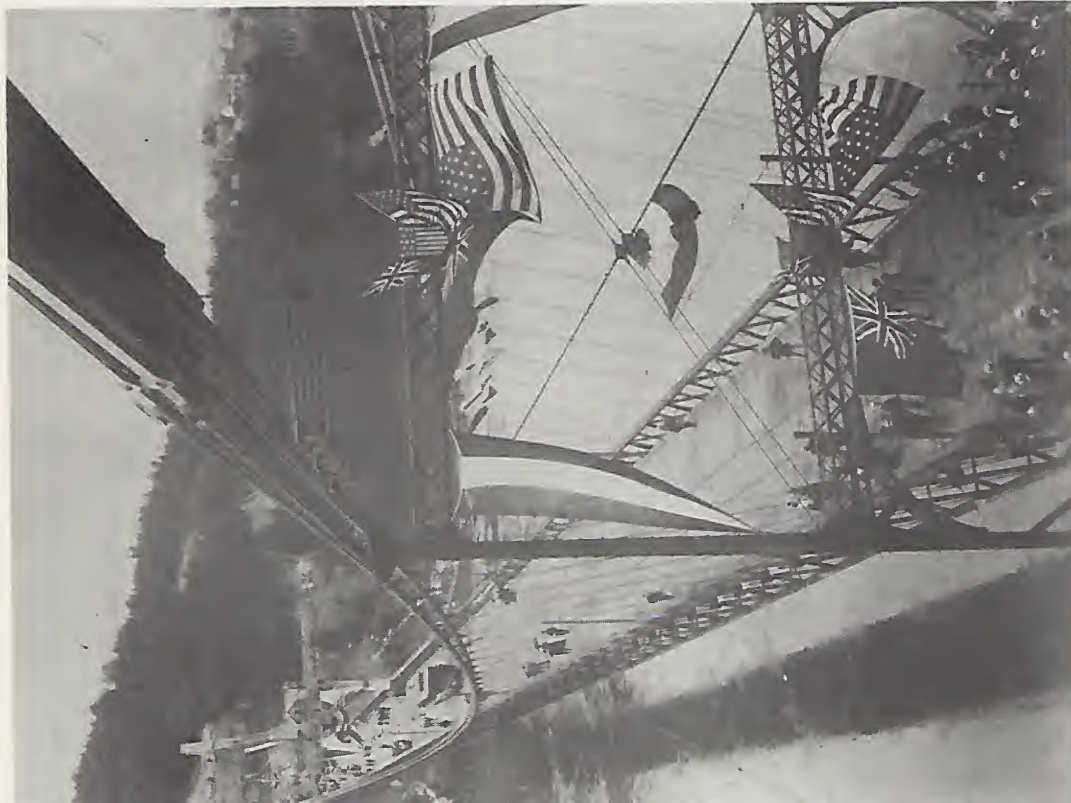
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through the neck; who, falling from his horse, died in a few minutes." The arrival of the Tuscaroras prevented the loss of the Cooke family, but their respite was only temporary. "Renewing the eager and infernal pursuit, none but vacated houses were found; the death-blow had been stayed by the sudden exit of the inmates upon whom was intended an early call. Breakfast tables were found provided with unconsumed warm meals, irregularly arranged benches and chairs, an indication of the haste in departing. There was but a few minutes' timely notice, to ensure the safety of the eastward retreat of the women and children accompanied by men; as such as only could be spared from the gathering forces, to drive back the hostile intruders. The rallying point had been fixed at the two temporary arsenals, consisting of log houses," that stood on the old Beach farm, about a half-mile east of Howell's (Eighteen Mile) Creek. "One of the buildings was used for a deposit of powder; the other for arms."

At this locality, Joshua Fairbanks, Silas Hopkins, (Colonel, commanding the 165th Volunteer Regiment and home on leave), Benjamin Barton, and a few other citizens made their stand against the enemy. A few of the local militia, who had sent their families "on ahead" to safety joined the fight. Two and one half miles west of the arsenal, the citizens met with a band of "vagrant intruders." One volley and the group quickly dispersed in "disorderly retreat . . . to the protection of Fort Niagara."

When Major Beach joined the citizens army at the arsenal, he brought news of his hired man, Tiffany, who was killed by the Indians. Beach and Tiffany had assisted the Beach family to make their escape, and then retired to the gathering place of the Tuscaroras. There they were surprised, and the Tuscaroras, seeing that Beach was detected, to

the lame man, came to his aid and carried him up the mountain. Tiffany, totally fatigued, said, "I must stop, if the Indians kill me." He was found dead near Tuscaroras. He also carried the body of Mead, a teamster, who was conveying furniture on that day. He was killed by an Indian who shot him.

When Lewis' home was at the foot of the mountain, on the outskirts of the present village. "Reuben and I agreed never to be alive by the Indians, and he was attacked, he fought them no longer able, and then he hid behind a log. The Indians discovered him with their tomahawks." Thomas Marsh was apprehended. He pleaded that he was a subject, but to little avail. He, like his father, was shot and scalped."

Robinson family, who at the time lived three miles east of the village, gathered up as much as they could carry on a sled and fled out for Pekin. Mrs. Robinson and her five children and crossed the Indian Reservation and hid in the woods. Her husband found her there after three days. Robinson attempted to return home to retrieve more belongings, but was surprised by the Indians and taken prisoner. He escaped, found his family and fled east to safety.

Invaders encountered very little resistance. Major Mallory and the Corps of Canadian Volunteers pushed them back down the mountain to Lewiston Heights. This gave the soldiers, who lived at the corner of Mountain Road and Lewis Road, sufficient time to escape. Dickinson wrote in a reminiscence: "My father, Isaac Colt . . . during the smoke rising from burning buildings, joined by Silas Hopkins, went on horse-back to the brow of the precipice . . . only surprised by several Indians. A quick exit was the dictate of the moment. He came here again for the next two

reach, was not harmed. When my father reached the house, we found that his garments had been pierced by five balls. A ball had made quite a deep skin wound on his hip, the blood from which had partly filled his shoe. The attention of my father and Hopkins was at once directed towards providing for the escape of their own and other families, to be perfected before the destroyers had time to arrive. It was done so hurriedly that but little regard was had for what clothing was worn or hastily tied up in a bundle—without even providing for a small child's dinner, for a journey that had no certain end. I got on board the lumber wagon of a stranger, that was standing before the door, taking the younger children in charge. Hertz and Alexander descended the mountain expecting to stop at Solomon Hersey's tavern at Dickersonville, but found it deserted, as were all houses on the Ridge Road. There was no other way left for me but to accept the offer of the stranger and benefactor. He carried us during the day and late in the evening, forty miles east on the ridge, where we were left to seek an opportunity to get through to Bristol, Ontario County, the point I had fixed my mind upon. I was then eighteen years old, and made my adopted home a residence for many years afterwards. My father's home with all the neighboring buildings were burnt. John Marsh and one by the name of Frink were killed."

"During the balance of the winter," wrote Chipman, "a few remained, among them Silas Hopkins and Isaac Colt, (both militiamen) and others returned to act as patrolling watchmen, over what little might be picked up and saved. It was a lean gathering."

Silas Hopkins, a Colonel in the New York Militia, first arrived in Lewiston in the summer of 1787. He came to assist his father with a herd of cattle and "to see the country." He came here again for the next two

summers as a drover, and returned home to New Jersey each time with about four hundred dollars of prime beaver pelts. He regarded the Indian with mixed emotion, as he stated at one time, "in all out journeying in those early days, we were well treated by the Indians. They had a custom of levying a tribute on all drovers, by selecting a beaver from each drove as they passed through their principal towns." He was instrumental in organizing the defense at the arsenal, not far from his farm, as a point of defense. On his farm, at the extremity of Hopkins Marsh, was the solitary grave of the teamster, Mead, who was killed by the lone Indian.

The following season many made their way back to their old homesteads, but all lived in anticipation of being attacked. The first to return were the Beach brothers, John, Philip and Jesse. Not far behind them came John Latta, Isaac Cooke, Sparrow Sage, John Robinson, Rufus Spauld-

ing, Henry Totten, Conrad Bartemus, Ray Marsh, William Enos, Cousin Smith, Aaron Childs, Eli Harris, Ashish Pool, Stephen Warren, John Gould, and William Howell, whose family did not leave. Most of these men served in the local unit of militia up and down the Niagara Frontier.

Orasmus Turner stated that: "During the next summer . . . small marching parties, generally Indians, occasionally visited the neighborhood." However, in June of 1814, a party of whites (disguised as Indians) and Indians left Fort Niagara for the specific purpose of destroying a "barracks" that had been erected in the cemetery at Dickersonville. This party did not do any acts of violence on the way to the barracks. On the return to the fort, they did a bit of harassing, as we would call it today, of the population along the Ridge Road. The first stop was at the Rutus Spaulding farm. It was

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him on the cheek with the butt of his gun. Stunned but still capable, Sage swung and planted the head of the axe between the Indian's shoulder blades."

In all justice to our neighbors to the west, it must be said that despite the feelings of the Americans after they had been burned out and ravaged by Indians, this action was nothing more than another incident in border warfare. This was common in that day. However, it must be stated that Lieutenant General Drummond was a native-born Canadian, and not a Briton, and therefore, the American occupation of Canada meant much more to him than it had to the previous generals in command. To them it was a military situation. So Drummond played his war for keeps—he meant to drive out the Americans, which he did as soon as possible. However, in all fairness to him, we must add that his orders to Colonel Murray, who

upaulding who made gestures "Indians", trying to make them stand. One of the so-called s answered in English, "You not make signs to me, I am are of an Indian than you are; at with me are the same m." They left her unharmed.

same "Indians" straggled to the home of Sparrow Sage. Sage was in the woods nearby ing wood. The women in the were Mrs. Sage, Miss Davis, Miss Arbutnot with her d woman. They were marched the house and were being like cattle to slaughter. One women made her escape and d Mr. Sage of what was trans- He quickly left in hot pursuit Indians and the women who now heading towards Fort Ni- Sage approached the armed s cautiously, hoping to take tage of a close range sally, the Indian turned and struck



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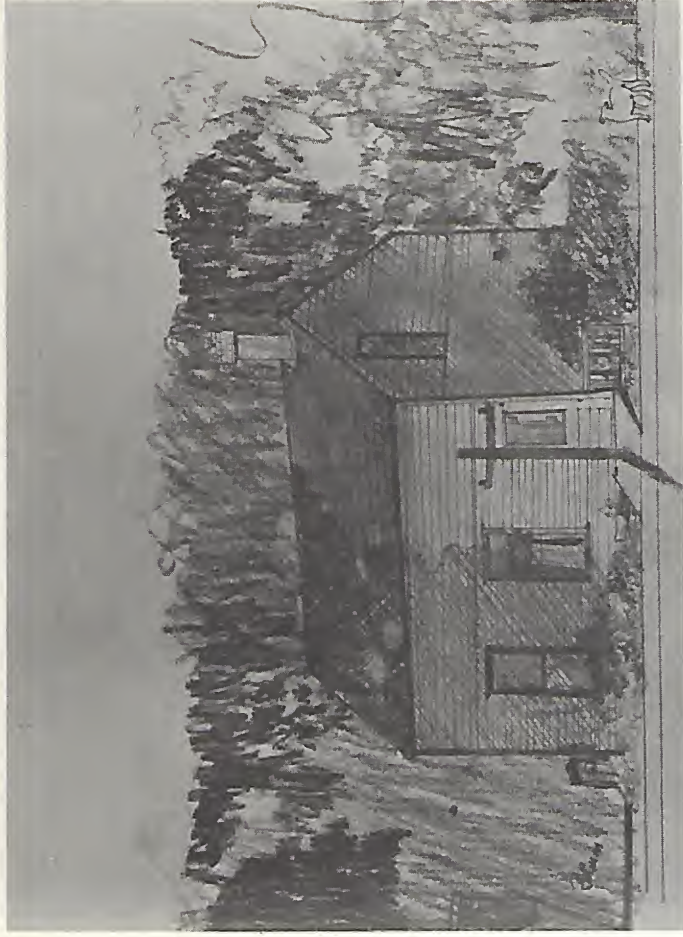
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THE OLDEST UNALTERED BUILDING IN LEWISTON, BUILT MAY, 1816

led the direct assault were: "The men must be silent and not load without orders, and rely chiefly on the bayonet." Colonel Elliot, who led the attack on Lewiston, was directed to warn the Indians to abstain from plunder and acts of violence to women and children. "I cannot consent to employ them," said Drummond, "except on this condition." (Instructions to Colonel Murray, December 18, 1813). The British assault troops on Lewiston consisted of the 8th Regiment and the 89th Light Company, totalling 250 men; 41st Regiment, Grenadiers, and the 100th Regiment, totalling 250 men; Royal Scots, 400; Militia, 100; and about 500 western Indians under Elliot and Caldwell.

The official status of troops in Lewiston was as follows: "a weak regiment of New York State Artillery, numbering seven officers and 120 men, with two guns under command

from the neighboring reserve." When he found his position threatened, Bennett summoned Mallory's Battalion of Canadian Volunteers to his aid from Schlosser. His whole force did not exceed 300, and was rapidly diminished by desertion. He set fire to the public buildings and attempted to carry off his guns by the Ridge Road. "But, he was attacked sharply by the light troops and the Indians, and was forced to abandon his guns. When he gave the order for the abandonment, the militia dispersed in every direction. They left seventeen dead on the field and a few were taken prisoners. Unhappily, the Indians broke their solemn pledge exacted from them before crossing the river, and committed numerous outrages. Not only did they ransack and burn every house in sight, including the Tuscarora village, but killed and wounded some of the unresisting inhabitants

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ren were rescued from their hands by the British regulars, one of whom was actually killed by them while protecting the prisoners from their fury." So wrote Colonel Elliott in his report to Drummond. The local townspeople reported that the Indians were drunk. Perhaps they tapped Tryon's stock of whiskey. At one time he advertised 3000 gallons of fine grade whiskey for sale.

Lewiston was threatened a couple of times by the Canadians but never was occupied in numbers. After the Battle of Lundy's Lane, the wounded were moved into Lewiston, and a hospital tent city was created on the burned out foundations of a village.

The War of 1812 dragged on to a slow close. The people coming back were faced with the problem of rebuilding and re-establishing themselves with very little cash or personal belongings. Lewiston was literally starting from scratch again.

Prior to the war, many people who came built a crude house on a lot and literally "squatted" until a title could be procured. The reason for this was that land purchase had to be cash for a clear title or long term payments for a certificate of ownership. This left very little for homebuilding, because the law establishing the Village of Lewiston demanded a dwelling be placed on the lot within two years. However, if you were a "squatter" and somebody bought the land out from under you, there was still sixty days to move your house, if it was worth moving.

In 1810, the Legislature passed an Act to alter the plan of the Village of Lewiston, on the Niagara River. It read in part: "Whereas, a large majority of the purchasers of lots in the said village . . . have by their petition set forth that they have paid very extravagant prices for lots in said village, and also that the public

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Fifth, Onondaga, and Fourth Streets. The area now became Cayuga, Fourth, Plain, and Fifth Streets; Onondaga, Fourth, Ridge and Fifth Streets; with Center Street bisecting as it had previously.

To further assist the population with its rebuilding program, the Legislature, as early as 1814, passed the relief act for the "Sufferers on the Niagara frontier." This act allowed people to borrow up to \$1,000 for the rebuilding of their homes and outbuildings, but not for the purpose of purchase or payment of land. One had only to apply and have proof of loss. Congress passed a similar act in 1816. Yet by 1820, very few people had applied for relief money, and the monies were withdrawn.

The Legislature of 1815 was a busy organization on behalf of Lewiston. This body renewed the lease of the Porter, Barton and Company

is too large, and contains all the only ground suitable for mills, which materially retards development...

shall be lawful for the sur-general to reduce the public in the village of Lewiston to not exceeding four acres, lay out the residue... into and lots as nearly as may practicable of the same width size as lots heretofore laid

...the purchase money and es to be taken for the same be deposited in the Treasury d are hereby pledged for the t of a common school in said , in such manner as the Legis- shall hereafter direct."

old public square was now to development and a new ss block on Center Street was for the buyers. The land in on was bounded by Cayuga,

for six years. It threw open more State lands around Lewiston and Black Rock for sale. The state announced that the old Village Square lots were finally available for sale. However, the people now began to smart a little bit because everything they wanted to do had to come down from Albany. This led to a consideration for local government.

Porter, Barton and Company rebuilt their warehouses and dock as quickly as possible, and steamships again made for the Lewiston docks. The carrying trade was very good at this time. The whole of the frontier was in demand of goods, that had been curtailed by the war. Men began cutting trees for firewood. Stores started to appear slowly on Center Street. Despite the revival of the portage business, the arrival of several old families, and the appearance of many new families, Lewiston's recovery was slow. Building materials and hard cash were scarce.

News in 1816 really irritated many of the citizens. They had petitioned for relief of the building on the lot, only to have it amended and more clearly defined. The Act read: "it is hereby made the duty of the surveyor-general, to require from all purchasers of house lots in the villages of Black Rock and Lewiston, a stipulation to erect, or cause to erect, a house on each lot, not less than twenty by eighteen feet, fit for the habitation of man, within two years after such purchase, under penalty of forfeiting such lot and all payments made thereon. II. And it be further enacted, that it shall be lawful for any person who may have erected a building or buildings on any lot, the property of this state, to remove such buildings from such lot, at any time within sixty days after sale of such lot. However, this act may clarify one question that is often asked. Why didn't the people build brick homes, when materials such as wood were scarce at the time a brick house would have been

difficult to move, despite a kiln located near Niagara University. Saw mills began producing boards for building about 1818, at Schlosser, 1825 at Youngstown, and there were several mills in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The people of Lewiston took a census in 1817 and found that they had enough "souls" to apply for a town government. This was not what the village people wanted, but it was the next best thing. It must be recalled, that many of the settlers here came from New England where the Town or Village meetings were not to be overlooked. The need for schools presented a problem. So a petition was filed in Albany requesting a new Town Government.

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tion of the Town

February 27th, 1818, the Town of Lewiston was created from the town of Cambria. "It is the central part of the western tier being bounded by the north and south by Porter and Wilson and Niagara and Niagara river and Cambria. The town extends through it, dividing it into equal parts." The total area of the town was 22,333½. The town was named in honor of Governor Morgan Lewis.

The official act establishing the town of Lewiston reads:

"It is enacted by the people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, that from and after the first day of April next, that part of the town of Cambria lying west of a line beginning at the northwest corner of section number twenty-two, township fourteen, in the eighth range of townships, running southerly on the west line of said section thirty-two in a line to the south bounds of the town of Cambria, be and is hereby divided into a separate town by the name of Lewiston, and from the first meeting in the said town of Cambria, shall be held at the house of Arrow Sage (on the Ridge Road Model City Road); and that the order of the said town of Cambria shall be and remain a separate town by the name of Cambria, and the next town meeting shall be held at the house of John Gould.

And be it further enacted, that on or as may be after the first meeting of May next, the supervisors and overseers of the poor of the several towns of Lewiston and Cambria, on notice being first given to that purpose by said supervisors, shall meet and divide the poor and the property belonging to the said towns, according to the last tax list." The first meeting for this purpose was February 27th, 1818.

Justices of the peace Rufus Spaulding and Gideon Frisbee did call the first town meeting to order as instructed in the above act on April 7th, 1818. Judge Spaulding presided. The following town officers were elected: "Supervisor, Rufus Spaulding; town clerk, Oliver Grace; assessors, Benjamin Barton, Amos M. Kidder, and William Miller; highway commissioners, John Beach, Aaron Childs, and Reuben Reynolds; overseers of the poor, Jacob Townsend and Arthur Gray; school commissioners, Joshua Fairbanks, William Miller and Rufus Spaulding; inspectors of common schools, Amos M. Kidder, Reuben Reynolds and William Hoickkiss; constable and collector, Eleazar Daggett; sealer of weights and measures, Amos S. Tryon; and eleven overseers of highways, one for each of the eleven road districts into which the town was divided at that meeting." It may be interesting to note the duplication of town jobs that were allocated the more public-spirited citizens at that time.

"It was voted that hogs should be 'free commoners when hampered with good and sufficient yokes'; that the sum of five dollars be paid for each bear scalp taken in the town, and that the sum of two hundred dollars be raised for road money," and seventy-five for poor money."

The history of the village from its earliest settlement by the white man to this date is naturally tied to the history of the Town of Lewiston. As we have noted, the only building left standing after the burning incident in the War of 1812, was located between Sixth and Seventh Streets on Center, and was the home of Jonas Harrison, which he built in 1810. (The new St. Peter's Church stands on the site.)

The most profitable businesses after the war must have been taverns,



SCHNEIDER'S TAVERN — CIRCA 1920

taverns is any indication. The Hustler's Tavern on the corner of Eighth and Center Street (now occupied by a service station); Eli Hart's, opened in 1816, was located at the corner of Portage Road and Cayuga Streets; Solomon Hersey's Tavern and Hotel, opened in 1821, on Center Street; Thomas Kelsey's, opened in 1824, corner of Seventh and Center Streets; the Frontier House, built by Benjamin Barton, Samuel Barton and Joshua Fairbanks opened in 1824; Nelson Cornell built the American Hotel at the river bank about 1840; J. T. Beardsley built the Exchange Hotel on the site of the Presbyterian Manse; the Central Hotel and Saloon opened about 1850 at the corner of Cayuga and Eighth Streets flanking the railroad station; and last but not least the First and Last Chance Saloon still standing, and now an Art Studio. In the forties what is now a potter shop advertised on a sign

BEER, ALE on DRAUGHT. Joshua Fairbanks was one of the earliest merchants to return to Lewiston. He rebuilt his shop at the corner of Fourth and Center Streets in 1819. In 1819 he formed a partnership with Sheldon Thompson and opened a store in general merchandising on the site of the present Hennepin Hall. Amos Tryon returned and opened a general store on Center Street where the Red and White now stands. Down on the riverfront not far from the wharf, Amos and Reynolds were partners in a tannery. Dr. Gideon Frisbee operated a drug store and doctor's office at the corner of Seventh and Center (now Dr. Alderman's office). In 1820 John Wyner also opened a drug store, but the location has not been learned. N. Tryon opened a shop in Center Street, but the location and the type is not known. Townsend and Harrison operated a

the Presbyterian manse is located in 1823. Reynolds and Tryon a business down by the river. The Shepherd's opened a smith's and wagon maker's at the corner of Fourth and Streets. The Hotchkiss family for business as early as 1823. Calvin Hotchkiss's new location on Center Street, just west of long and short house" was in the spring of 1823. Directly from it was the Patterson, which specialized in sheet and copper. The following businesses flourished in Lewiston but locations are unknown: Norton, L. and A. Woodruff in 1825; Joseph A. Norton, Hugh Frazer, 1838 and Sam's butcher shop. Josiah Tryon's tailor shop in 1825 in that that now adjoins Helms' man who returned to his

home and continued to operate the same business as before the war with no re-building, was Solomon Gillette. He returned to fishing on the Niagara River which at that time was lucrative. He and his remaining sons rebuilt their farm, but their main source of income remained the river. Chubbuck operated the ferry as well as a tavern on the waterfront, until 1822 when it was taken over by O. (Obediah) Smith.

George Shockey had rented the land where the present Town Hall is located from William James, who in 1820 still had not received clear title to it and set up a Saddle and Harness Shop, two doors west of Hersey's Lewiston Hotel. Across the street from this shop and hotel, Bates Cooke's home, office, and Post Office were located, as appears in several ads found in early papers in Buffalo and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Going west to the corner of Seventh and Center on the south side of the

street (now the Clay Pipe), was located the little store of Crozier and Parrish in 1816. His records show that the rent paid to Dr. W. Smith was "nine dollars per annum for the use of the lot." His business was general merchandise, shoes and boots, but he doubled as repair man and teacher.

One of the reasons for the slow development of Lewiston was the lack of hard cash. Many of the businesses would exchange due bills and notes as well as labor for materials. Thos. Crozier mentions in one place that he contracted for one year's service for \$125 dollars plus "found." This will give some indication of the cash situation, which was not really relieved for some years. The shipping and transferring industry helped bring cash into the area, as the farmers sold off wood for cash. The white oak and maple that was burned in the boilers of the old puffers on

the lakes could be used today for the present boat-building industry of the area.

A great deal has been written about the Cooke brothers, Bates and Lathrup and of their affairs in the village. But these two men, along with Dr. Willard Smith in 1819, found themselves in a predicament. They were going to forfeit their lands to the state for failing to have built upon them a dwelling. February 11, 1820, an "Act for the relief of Willard Smith, Lathrup Cooke, and Bates Cooke.

"Whereas the lots purchased by the persons named in this act, are in low and wet situations, unfit for buildings to be erected thereon: Therefore,

"Be it enacted . . . that (said men), be and they are hereby exempted and released from the stipulation mentioned and contained in the first section of act of . . . 1816, requiring



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...each lot . . . lots numbered 288,
290, 291, 292, of the house lots
...village of Lewiston." These
...are located on the north side of
...Niagara Street between Eighth and
...ninth Street.

The census of Niagara County
1820 proved that the village of
Lewiston now had 300 souls. Im-
mediately after the report was pub-
lished applications were filed with
the State Legislature for incorpo-
ration as a village. This was granted
in an Act, passed April 17, 1822, to
vest certain powers in the Freehold-
ers and the Inhabitants in the Vil-
lage of Lewiston.

INCORPORATION I. BE it enacted by the
People of the State of
New York, represented
in Senate and Assem-
bly, That the district of
Niagara, as laid down
in a map made by the
surveyor-general, and
filed in the office of the
secretary of this state,
be and hereafter shall
continue to be known
by the name of the vil-
lage of Lewiston, and
the freeholders and in-
habitants residing with-
in the same, and quali-
fied to vote at town
meetings, may, on the
Third Tuesday of May
next, meet at the school
house in said village, a
notice whereof in writ-
ing shall be signed and
put by a justice or jus-
tices of the peace re-
siding in the town of
Lewiston, at least five
days before the said
day of meeting, and
then and there proceed
to elect five discreet
freeholders, resident in
said village, to be trust-
ees thereof, etc.

written in the various and many
histories, that the village was char-
tered in 1822 and incorporated in
1843. This is false! The village was
incorporated or chartered April 17,
1822. The various sessions of the
Legislature, passed acts that regu-
lated the village government of
Lewiston. Finally, in 1843, an act
was passed to "Condense and
amend the several acts relating to
the Village of Lewiston." The articles
of this act left nothing to conjecture:
they are most definite and specific.
In the 1822 act, the president and
the clerk are selected from the
elected trustees; the 1843 act, spe-
cifically called for the selection of
a clerk from outside the elected
trustees. It includes a bonded treas-
urer, vote by ballot, poundmaster,
constable, street commissioners, and
a schedule of payment for the em-
ployees. It further stated in 1843, in
article 44: "Out of the moneys ap-
propriated from the common school
fund to the county of Niagara, the
village of Lewiston shall share its
proportion with the school districts of
the town of Lewiston." This was one
of the bones of contention between
the village and townspeople. The
villagers felt they were not getting
a fair share of the school monies.
The clause also explained why the
village treasurer paid the teachers
in Lewiston, school district No. 1.

The year 1822 was a big year for
Lewiston. Another reason for want-
ing to become a village was the
county seat. With Niagara and Erie
County dividing in 1821, the need for
a new county seat became evident.
The Lewiston villagers felt that the
county and town of Lewiston offices
should all be kept in their progres-
sive little corner of the county! This,
naturally, led to a political battle.

Lewiston was selected as the first
county seat for Niagara County, and
the first Circuit Court sat in the
school-house on Academy Park in
1821. The court met here for the next
two years. The officers of the new
county were: Justice Charles Sheriff,

Silas Hopkins, first judge; James Van
Horn and Robert Fleming, judges;
and Oliver Grace, clerk. This was
a "Who's Who of Lewiston."

Pool states: "The settlement of the
location of the county seat was not
effected without a serious and bitter
rivalry between the eastern and the
western portions of the county. The
towns of Lewiston and Niagara
worked together," but did not get the
county seat. A commission was ap-
pointed to determine the location.
The men selected were: Jesse Haw-
ley, William Britton, and Erasmus
Root. Britton died and Hawley and
Root differed. Root favored Lewiston
and Hawley favored Lockport. The
legislature appointed a new com-
mission in 1822 which decided in
favor of Lockport. However, not all
was lost—the judges selected were
mostly Lewistonians. It is often told
that people of Lewiston would not al-
low the county records to leave the
village. So the story goes that one

dark night two ox-carts were driven
up to the county offices, loaded up
and silently stole away. In the morn-
ing the citizenship of the village was
most irate.

The records of an election before
1843 seem to have disappeared, so
that it is not known who the elected
or appointed officials were. But the
officers in 1843 were: William Hotch-
kiss, president; Jonathan Bell, clerk;
George W. Shockey, collector; Carl-
ton Bartlett, treasurer; John T.
Beardsley, constable; and trustees,
Lathrup Cooke, E. A. Adams, R. H.
Boughton, and Nelson Cornell. It is
interesting to note that every official
was a business man of the village.
One cannot get a business man to-
day to seek any elected office for
fear of becoming involved and los-
ing a customer. The present officials
of the village are: John Fernoile,
mayor; Richard Moses, Richard
Webb, Harry Dixon, and George
Clark, trustees.

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Lewiston Homes and Personalities

Sara Sabina Swain of the cobblestone house in Youngstown in an address Sept. 15, 1936 remarked, "Old houses have a personality. They seem to share the thrilling adventures of the lives of those who live in them." In order to fully imagine how Lewiston looked and what life was like in the early 1800's we must examine old newspapers, survey maps, authoritative sources plus some of the word-of-mouth stories that have come down as part of our heritage in this village. Then we will invest these old homes with the people who built them, participating in the joys and problems of those days.

The framework for the houses is the survey of the area in 1798 and the delineation of the streets. Beginning at the Niagara River the streets extending from south to north were numbered one to nine. At the extreme south end of the village to the extreme north end the streets running west to east are named for the Six Nations, Tuscarora, Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk, with the main or Center Street dividing the village between Cayuga and Onondaga. Center Street at the east boundary of the village becomes Ridge Road. However, there have been additions to this geometric pattern. There is a tiny two block long street called Plain, inserted between Center and Cayuga which is one of the loveliest streets in our village, extending between Fourth and Fifth Sts. A man who built his house upon a hill found it difficult to get down through the woods to the Frontier House to fraternize with his cronies so he had a path cut through and that became Niagara St., an interloper between Fourth and Fifth Sts. Ridge St. parallels Center for two blocks between Third and Fifth Sts. As the land was broken up into smaller lots these extra streets must have been neces-

acres beyond Mohawk have been divided into lots and we have many additional short streets upsetting the simple pattern of 1798, and adding to the confusion of the truck driver delivering goods. The boundaries between the village and the town are invisible and mean little to any of us except at voting time. However in our consideration of early Lewiston we will visualize the village within its old boundaries.

Let us start our reverie of years long past at Ninth St., and as we stroll west observe the early buildings and greet some of the inhabitants. We are celebrating the period of 1822 but we will have to stretch the years a bit in order to see the most imposing school building west of the Finger Lakes. Academy Park on the south side of Center St. bounded by Portage and Cayuga and 9th is the location of the Lewiston Academy built in 1824. This was a four story stone structure, very imposing, where young people of the village could be day scholars, pupils from farther away and from Canada could come as boarding scholars. A funny five-cornered house on the opposite corner served as boarding house.

An old lady, now in her 90's related that when her grandfather attended, hogs were allowed to run freely to kill and eat the rattlesnakes which were common in that area.

A beautiful double row of elms made a shady walk around the perimeter of the grounds. The early fathers would be sad to know they have disappeared. However, they would be happy to realize that there are now dedicated young matrons, THE FEMMES en FORCE, planting trees to take the place of the venerable elms.

Just to the south east of the Academy, on Ninth St. there was a older mill where inhabitants could

for a price. On Nov. 6, 1837 Mr. Wm. Gallier paid for "the use of the mill to make three barrels and a half of Cider." Unfortunately there is no amount stated on the receipt. This old mill exists as a home in the 1970's, an example of some of Lewiston's modest old buildings that have endured.

"Calladine's Hill," the steep unpaved road to the west of the Buena Vista has been a coasting hill for many years. The Calladine family lived in an old brown house that had a porch on which rocked a friendly lady who talked to us on a summer's day as we strolled to the village. She was Mrs. Calladine, the last of the family that had given their name to the children's safe coasting hill.

"Genial Gene" the service man who greets his customers with a smile occupies the land on the n.e. corner of Center and 8th Sts. where in the memory of some Lewiston

natives Mr. Daley had a smithy. Here he not only shod horses but also repaired carriages and farm wagons. For many years a pony shoe was imbedded in the cement sidewalk just in front of the old place. The smithy stood on a very historic spot, the controversial location of the "house left standing" after the burning of Lewiston in Dec. 1813.

For years two derelict houses in Lewiston were designated "only house left standing." An enterprising person published a tiny folder with pictures of Lewiston's old places and the caption under one was this identification which has become part of Lewiston's folklore. It is persistent and will be handed down to generations to come, probably as long as the tiny house at 476 Center stands. The other house has long since disappeared. So has the one that the authority on local history, Mr. J. Boardman Scovell, proclaimed many times as "the" one. The



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ers, Catherine and Thomas, before the War of 1812 and published a tavern right where George Rd., Center and 8th Sts. on the north side. Thomas was the son of the Revolution and a rifleman had been a sutler, following the army from Fort Wayne. The many stories handed down to us pair we deduce that high old prevailed in that tavern. She played a good hand at cards according to James Fenimore Cooper, who is said to have used a rifle as Betty Flanigan and as Sergeant Hollister in "Spy," she invented the gin mill. She said, "It warms both body, and is fit to be put in a vessel of diamonds."

The tavern must have been a hot spot to the rowdies on both sides of the river and on that tragic Dec. 18th the soldiers and Indians were there for a warming drink, to compare the building for their re-

turn trip? Jonas Harrison in making a report to the state government mentioned "one house left standing" and Mr. Scovell always declared this old tavern was it. So, Genial Gene, you hold forth on a very historic spot.

As the country side developed into large fruit farms great warehouses were necessary to store the apples before shipping. Such a building stood just below Center on 8th St., space now occupied by Vincent's. Directly across Center stood the home of W. J. Bedenkapp built in 1887. He realized the necessity for such an enterprise. The Bedenkapp girls were often required to open the great windows at night to let in the cool air and that was a spooky job which they did not enjoy.

Much of Lewiston's early history concentrates along Center St., visual evidence of it erased by fires and modern plazas. On the north side

of Center, hidden behind the facade of a modern day shop is a tiny stone house, really beautifully built, with a cornerstone that has "JBF 1811" carved on it. Intriguing!

The Lewiston Opera Hall, or Moss Hall is a very old landmark, its origin date not determinable but we know that the east end is the original section. One formerly was able to distinguish the old from the more recent west end addition by the color of the brick. In the early 1900's excavations around the rear of the building and renovations in the basement revealed evidence that there was at some time slaughtering facilities there. In the old days animals were slaughtered locally and sold to the store keepers. Eugene Murphy who had a grocery and meat store where the Red and White is now, went out early in the morning and bought up fresh meat from the countryside. There wasn't much refrigeration in those days.

Some people scoff at "Lewiston Opera Hall" saying no operas were ever held there. "In our day it was Moss Hall!" Call it whatever pleases you. It was a gathering place for the people of the village. A private school was conducted for a short period on the top floor. Every year a gala event was the Washington Birthday dance to which every young person looked forward with anticipation and for which they all had beautiful new dresses. I imagine this was as lovely an affair in the 1890's-1900's as the dances that Lucy Williams Hawes wrote about in her "Lewiston Past, Present and Future" as being held in the Frontier House in the 1820's and 30's. As part of the beginning of the century celebration a stereopticon lecture on Oberammergau was greatly enjoyed by the townsmen.

Hallowe'en parties were held upstairs, entrance by an outside staircase being the only means of reach-

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t. The story of a near tragedy related by Mr. Brasser, an old friend. The room was crowded with young and old. Some one from the street threw a cabbage into the crowd. It struck a lamp and knocked it out of its bracket. Mr. Brasser picked it up and threw it out on the street where it bounced and never broke, but even in his old age he related the story, he shuddered to think of the possible holocaust that might have occurred.

The downstairs large room Sunday services were held, a kind of missionary endeavor, instigated by Dr. Hobbie family who were well known to people but came to their summer homes on the River Road. There were in the late 1800's families living along the river's edge who never attended the regular church services but they would come for gospel services in Moss Hall. Men and boys who attended the established churches loved to go to missionary services because there was always wonderful singing. Perhaps this old gospel sing-song was similar to our country music which is so "mod" now.

You see old Lewiston Opera Hall was the community center of the whole area over a long period of years. Now we have community picnics on Palm Sunday in the Hall; many club dinners in the Presbyterian Church; a fresco luncheon in the Field Day or Peach Festival in the days long ago families gathered there for a special celebration at a dinner that usually included oyster stew. Families often brought contributions of their best to a tureen supper just as they do now. It is remembered that Jewett Scovell, brother of our great historian J. B. always brought a concoction of which he would say, "That's good. I made it."

Many of us old-timers remember the nostalgia the telephone exchange managed by Mrs. Joseph G. It was the heart-beat of our

room of the old building. The Vamas lived in the rest of the first floor. From 1926 to 1949 one had personal service from the operators who in the beginning numbered four. Expansion of lines and services necessitated adding operators until there were fourteen when Lewiston changed to the dial system. The exchange closed. The intimate association of operator and customer was gone.

The Lewiston Town Hall occupies the west end addition to this old building, built about 1926.

Across the street from this venerable building is a stone building, the art gallery of Mr. Sam Russo. Then comes the plaza with the Clay Pipe completing the block. That stone wall is all that remains of the railroad that ran on the lower level, a culvert filled in not very long ago. One of our town officials when a small boy fell off that wall onto the tracks below. He must have been spared to serve his town in his later years. The entire block was the property of the Cooke family, except for the Clay Pipe. There was Bates Cooke whose law office was the stone house. His home was a tiny little wood structure to the west. This ancient house now stands on Oneida St. just before the turn into the River Rd. I think it is the most indicative of the pioneer houses in the 1800's built shortly after the burning of Lewiston in 1813. Some of the other houses along Center St. have undergone radical changes and it is only when they are being torn apart inside and redone that original partitions are discovered and the new owner has an idea of the simple portions of the pioneer's home.

Bates Cooke was the pioneer lawyer. His brother, Lothrop, built next to him. Lothrop was the brother who had to have his leg amputated because he injured it when he was guiding the boats across the river at the battle of Queenston Heights Oct. 1812. However, in spite of that loss he was a powerful man and



BARTON HALL — CIRCA 1920

of the town related by his nephew, Joshua Cooke, in the old histories are thrilling. The house that Lothrop built underwent many changes and enlargement and was one of the loveliest homes along that section of Center St. It now is settled on Cayuga St. opposite the Post Office. It is the home and dental office of Dr. Elmer Wilcox. When the plaza was created it was necessary to move this house and the Bedenkapp house that had been built in the 1880's on the site of the Bates Cooke home. The Bedenkapp house was slid down the hill at the same time as the Cooke house and now rests on Cayuga St. Because Joshua Cooke, the son of Bates, lived a long life and was a prolific writer, we have charming and valuable records of this family.

The father of Bates and Lothrop was Lemuel who came to Fort Niagara in 1796, right after the Hold-

relinquished Ft. Niagara our government offered some inducements to a man who would contract to serve at the fort for a year. Lemuel brought his family from New England and served his year. For a time he operated a ferry between Youngstown and Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake). In 1802 he and his family came to Lewiston and spent the summer erecting a hut on the site of Jonathan's hut at the river's edge. There the family lived and operated a ferry (row boats) between Lewiston and Queenston. A little later Lemuel bought the Joseph Brant farm on the Ridge Road. It is said that there was some kind of house there, originally Joseph Brant's. Now in 1971 the home of Dr. John Rucker.

At the time of the War of 1812 the Cookes were very knowledgeable of the river, its currents and moods, having been river men for so many years. They along with

fortunate day, Oct. 13, 1812, the
of Queenston Heights. They
harrowing adventures on the
of the burning but escaped to
form the thriving little village
Lewiston. Bates became the law-
having studied or "read law"
for Jonas Harrison, our first law-
Later Bates was the lawyer un-
whom Horatio Stowe studied. We
little chits in a collection of
hkhkiss papers that indicate these
The little stone building went
high many years as a saloon.
First and Last Chance Saloon"
d indicate it was the first one
veler coming from Canada over
ld bridge would encounter, and
last one before leaving the vil-
But somehow that doesn't fit
use at one time there were 13
ons down Center St. Maybe it
in reference to Lewiston Hill,
g to or coming from Niagara
s. Whatever, it was a rowdy
e and a great heartache to the

families living near it.
Joshua Cooke wrote an obituary
for his friend Dr. Edward Smith in
which he states that they were
"born in the same year within a
house of each other." That indicates
Dr. Smith's birthplace as what is
now "The Clay Pipe," his father be-
ing Dr. Willard Smith, the pioneer
doctor. We have a descendant of
these old doctors, Mrs. George Brill-
hart, of the Village Yarn Shop. So
knowing the age of Joshua Cooke,
born 1821, we date the Clay Pipe as
about 1820. The other Cooke houses
could be 1815-1817. We don't know
exactly. But they were early. Mrs.
Hawes is accepted as authoritative
and she puts them at 1817.

On the north side of Center St.
opposite the Cooke row there stands
today an apartment house known
locally as "Brown's apartments." In
an old scrap book we have a picture
of that building as it was when it
was a Universalist Church. The pic-

ture is of an old wreck of a building
but if one looks carefully he can see
that the facade with its pillars indi-
cates it is the same building. Could
be after the half century.

To the west is a white house, ob-
viously an original with an east ex-
tension. Mrs. Betty Fields Phippen
who conducts the "Clay Pipe" was
born in this house. Her great grand-
parents purchased it. It has had a
great variety of village business
within its walls. At one time the of-
fice and shop of Dr. Frisbee; in the
1870's U.S. post office with C. M.
Walker the postmaster; Whites' dry
goods store in the 1930's; but the
store remembered by the village
septuagenarians was a drug store
equipped with a soda fountain, the
delight of all the youth of the village.
Presently Dr. Henry Alderman has
his office in the west wing, the east
section is an apartment.

Hennepin Hall, the beautiful man-
sion of Sherburne Piper, a Dart-
mouth graduate who came to Lew-
iston to teach in the Academy. He
married Ann Eliza Goodwin, a niece
of Joseph Ellicott in 1835, so we date
this house 1835-36. A researcher has
seen on the tax roll of 1835 that this
land was owned by Benjamin Bar-
ton. So? Perhaps it has a later birth
date but it is in that period. It was
without doubt the most spectacular
building on Center St. Sherburne
Piper was a lawyer who followed
the pioneer lawyer and judge, Wil-
liam Holchkiss. He must have had
plenty of money to have built such
a fine place. The fine woodwork,
well built chimneys and fireplaces
which are reported to have cost one
thousand dollars each and the beau-
tiful curving stairway, are memorials
to the artisans who created them.
John Carter of the Lake Road in
Youngstown, the builder of that
beautiful brick farm house just out-
side the village, walked to Lewiston
each day and worked on this man-
sion, then walked home. Mortimer
Bacon designed and executed the
beautiful stairway and other wood

trim. He was the great-great grand-
father of Betty Fields Phippen. On a
tour of inspection just before the
house was taken over by St. Peter's
parish as a convent for the teaching
sisters in the parish school, we ad-
mired all the grandiose elements of
gracious living for the owners but
deplored the narrow, dark stairs the
servants had to climb as they took
the food from the huge brick oven
in the cellar to the master's table
on the floor above. Not much regard
for the safety and convenience of
the servants.

Another Thomas and Katherine
conducted an early tavern on the
s.w. corner of Center and 7th Sts.,
the Kelseys. It is recorded that Ste-
phen Van Rensselaer had headquar-
ters there in the first part of the War
of 1812. It was burned along with
all the other buildings on that fate-
ful day. The Kelseys returned and
built a large tavern which stands
today as the "Lafayette House," the
inn to which Lafayette and his en-
tourage came in June 1825. There
he spent the night and greeted the
townspeople and an old Indian
friend from the Revolutionary War.
This encounter is graphically de-
scribed in the writings of old Joshua
Cooke. It is also claimed that he at-
tended a ball at the Frontier House
which was evidently not yet com-
pleted. Imagine the disappointment
of the Barton family but the elation
of the Kelseys! As is true of many
of our landmarks this old inn has
been enlarged. The wing on the east
was added in the 1860's. It is a
lovely old building and the village
rejoices that it now is a medical cen-
ter, insuring its upkeep as a show
place on Center St.

The Presbyterian Manse just west
of the "Lafayette House" was com-
ceived in 1871; just when it was com-
pleted we aren't sure but let's say it
is enjoying its centennial. A church
record states that the site was pur-
chased from Hetzel Colt for the sum
of \$800. The contractor was Wm.
Packston, the village builder. By

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he had been paid \$2351, more owing. One of the church members, Richard Ayer, supplied the remainder \$950. It is a church village tale that she mortgaged the farm to raise the sum.

Across the road, the tiny east end of the florist shop is very being the pioneer home of Rose Fleming, one of the earliest settlers. There are Flemings still in our village and there were Flemings long on several streets during the century. Their relationship has been worked out by this writer, we do know that Flemings had a part in the history of this village. We will meet others as we go to other streets.

A trio of buildings known as "the House, the Short House and Store" belonged to the William Hotchkiss family. Judge William Hotchkiss came to Lewiston and built his home in 1815. It is now our beautiful library.

The little building next was his law office. In the early pictures it has a porch railing. The next narrow, two story building was opened as a store in 1817 by Calvin Hotchkiss, brother of Judge William. The complete inventory for that opening is extant and gives a wonderful list of all the home and farm essentials plus the elegant things needed by the inhabitants according to their affluence. The Hotchkiss family persists to this day. Eunice Hotchkiss Welch, daughter of Ralph Hotchkiss who passed away a few years ago, and the children of Helen Hotchkiss and William Murphy, both deceased, are the present descendants of William but the name has disappeared. This family left a treasure to us in old records from which we have gained a fair picture of people and events and the mode of living in those early days.

The little store is of interest. It has had a succession of tenants after

Calvin Hotchkiss. Before 1860 a peddler came through this area and opened up a store in this little building. He was Marcus Silberberg. He lived across the street in the Dr. Edward Smith house, now the home and office of Dr. Hans Selzer. Marcus Silberberg soon saw that Lewiston was declining and that Niagara Falls would be the growing metropolis so he moved and opened his store in the north end, a store that had for more than a century a most renowned reputation for integrity where the men of the family could be outfitted.

For many years this was the village library. In 1901 the Men's Club set about creating a library and its first home was the old Benjamin Cornell building where "The Quote and Quill" and Richard Cary's insurance office are. The old Cornell building, we think, goes back at least to the 1830's as we have an account book of Benjamin's with entries in that decade. In 1908 the library association bought this old 1817 store from J. B. Scovell and moved the library to it where it remained until the 1960's when it was moved to the "Long House."

Calvin Hotchkiss had a fine store but he certainly didn't make his wealth entirely by selling necessary and extravagant commodities to the Lewiston settlers. He dabbled in real estate. The town assessor, Arthur Gray, asked him what his assets were and he replied, "A ram, a goat and a black cat." Mr. Gray taxed him for \$5000. Every year the same question, always the same answer and the assessment increased by \$5000 each year. Finally when he died in his beautiful home on the River Road, later the Cadet house of Stella Niagara, he was worth \$500,000.

Before we leave the Hotchkiss family and the library we should give credit to the Lewiston Service Guild, a group of devoted young women who adopted the library as

extras not covered by the village and town allotments and personal membership contributions.

Also, the fine meeting room on the second floor is a tribute to the Business and Professional Women who financed its furnishings. The adult reading room is a beautiful room furnished by the Rotary Club with Mr. and Mrs. Bjarne Klausen as the planners and executors. Was it the original kitchen? We think so. Oh, what a beautiful library we have!

When the pioneers had their simple homes built some of them had a longing for an established religious society and a fixed place of worship and a local preacher, not just an itinerant missionary on horseback. In June 1817 the First Religious Society was formed and later that year David Smith was called to be the preacher. The Scovell home, 155 S. 5th St., now the home of Richard Hayman, was built by David Smith. Someone has said the date "1817" is cut into the stones on the north side. That is the oldest section. Later the house was purchased by Leonard Shepard, the first father-in-law of O. P. Scovell. When Mr. Scovell's young wife died he came back to Lewiston and bought "the preacher's house" from Mr. Shepard. This was in 1855 shortly after Mr. Scovell had remarried. Additions were made to the simple little house including an extensive carriage house on the south side. This is now a very useful family room for a large family. Mr. J. B. Scovell, Lewiston's knowledgeable historian, was born here and this old house will be known as "the Scovell house" for years to come. Lewiston lost a native son, a lawyer, a devout churchman, dedicated to the transmission of the history of Lewiston to all its inhabitants who would listen, when venerable Mr. Scovell died a few years ago.

Across the street from the old Scovell house is the Presbyterian

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B. were elders for many years. The church and his village were devoted to the heart of Josiah Boardman. The story of this historic village is included in the section on Lewiston.

Below the garden, on the n.e. corner of Cayuga and Niagara Sts. stands a house that is a combination of two houses, their origin back many years. At one time it was owned by Mrs. Sherburne.

Perhaps the lawyer bought it for an investment income. Another period a colorful gypsy lived there. Her tombstone carries a message from her husband, "Farewell Macey! Wife of Lawrence Boswell." It is said that every spring she and her horses and went off to join wandering relatives. In the fall she came back and was a loving companion to her husband.

That is a lovely old house across the street known as the Duncan

Home. Many years ago Mr. Duncan, a Scotsman, was the authority on animal husbandry in this area and was in charge of the animals on the Rumsey estate on the River Road. We think this house was built in the 1860's. It was for many years a summer boarding house maintained by Alexander Lane. Birdie Duncan Mosher told us that recently an old lady appeared at her door saying she had spent many summers there as a child. Mr. Duncan made changes in the house and Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Mosher are improving interiors to make some areas more convenient. The land connected with this house took in the entire block, down Niagara St. to Seneca and up to the old Fifth. A little old house and a big old barn on Fifth St. were bought by the Presbyterian Church when the church expanded. Before they were torn down it was possible to visualize a bit of rural Lewiston right in the village limits.

Captain Van Cleve, a name known to those who are interested in lake shipping, first lived in the house on the s. corner of Cayuga St. before his wife inherited "Fairbanks." This was for many years the home of the Murphy sisters, Eugenia and May, two charming and beloved librarians. Eugenia was a librarian in Buffalo, May was the village librarian over a long period when the library was in the little old Calvin Hotchkiss store building.

Across the road on Fourth St. is "Peter House" so named for Mrs. Edwin Bartlett's son. It is one of the most beautiful houses in the village and has always had excellent upkeep. Its exact age is not determined except that a portion which has the characteristics of early construction indicates it could date from the 1830's. J. C. Hooker and his mother lived there in the late 1800's. At one time we were shown a picture of a group of fair young ladies sitting on the front lawn being instructed in German by a professor who came down from Buffalo each week. Mrs. James Laughton, the present owner, when digging about in the garden struck stone foundations indicating that there was at one period a stable or carriage house. Practically every fine home had stables and carriage houses, also wood sheds. Papers found in a bundle from the Hotchkiss buildings contained insurance papers for "the wood shed, ice shed, carriage house." As houses grew older and customs changed, extensions were added and in some cases an old shed torn down. The village is rich in a number of lovely old homes each having its own distinctive air. Mrs. Edwin Bartlett was the owner over a long period preceding the Laughtons. The picket fence dates back to the early years, now a decorative note but reminiscent of the pioneer days when animals were "free commoners" and every home owner was required to fence his property with a fence of a legal height, subject to supervision by the

Not all the houses of interest in our village are grandiose, some are charming reminders of the first homes that were built by the independent settler such as the small brick house, 435 Seneca St. John Fleming arrived from Ireland in 1842 at the age of 17 with 50¢ in his pocket. He was first a tanner, building when he was financially able a large building on Seneca St. He lived in this brick house for some years and then built the house at 315 Niagara St. His death notice is typical of the early 1900's. "By earnest effort he worked his way from the foot of the ladder, so to speak, to success in business and prominence in social, church and political circles . . . He was postmaster for a number of years, president of the village . . . He was an elder for 50 years in the Presbyterian Church."

A bill for bushels of hair to the Lewiston Academy was found in the Hotchkiss papers indicating that John Fleming as a tanner of hides had hair to sell. Animal hair was used in plastering of walls. Could be that when repairs were made, much hair was necessary to be mixed with the plaster. A picture of the people assembled when the first shovelful of dirt was taken to start the Love Canal project shows Mr. and Mrs. Fleming right in the front row because he was a firm believer in the power project and was actively engaged in promoting it. The little brick house on Seneca, the home of Mrs. Stanley McMillan, could be a feature in a real Horatio Alger novel.

High on the hill among the oaks stood a beautiful house surrounded by gardens and terraces, a home built in 1836 by Seymour Scovell. It is only a memory because in the 1960's it burned and was leveled. In the winter of 1971 the remaining servants' quarters or carriage house burned. Seymour Scovell came from Palmyra to Lockport at the time of the burning of the Erie Can.

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struction of the locks. After the
1 was completed he and some
s bought up much land in
Town and put on a real mod-
day selling campaign to sell the
and create an important village
on the canal. He also ran a
successful hotel. Whether he was
a collector of the port before
to Lewiston which may have
determined his decision to build here
to not know, but he was collec-
for two presidential terms. The
ctor received a goodly salary
a percentage of the fees. So Mr.
ell evidently had wealth when
ame and received an ample in-
after settling here. The cutting
Niagara St. through the forest
Oak Hill to Center St. was done
Ox men for the convenience of
Scovell. He wanted to join his
ge cronies at the Frontier House
an easy route, not go a round-
it route or scramble through the
That is the story perpetuated
ugh print and by word of mouth.
ne has ever suggested that the
one of that trail was necessary
he ox carts to haul in the tons
uilding materials, some of the
es from excavations for the Erie
al. Whenever, before or after the
ing, there is Niagara St. upsett-
the pattern of the early survey-
who laid out our streets in a
netric pattern. It does not show
t surveyor's map of 1839 nor on
revised map of E. E. Mix of 1859.
aps for many years it was
ly a lane of convenience. Local
bitants who remember this
tiful home practically wept
is destruction. It stood majes-
ly high on the hill, a center
acious living for many years.
Scovell's two children, Maria
Leander, were students at the
iston Academy. A bill for fuel
Leander's room was found in
e old papers. Leander married
line Ways, a grandniece of
ph Ellicott and they built the fine
house at 775 Ridge Road.
Bairto's house became "Aunt Maria Hotch-

and was sliced in half, making two
houses. These can be easily identi-
fied on the west side of 4th.

Moses Bairsto was a very public
spirited man, involved in the affairs
of the village and the Academy. He
and his brother Abram built the red
brick store on the south side of Cen-
ter in 1854. Moses didn't like his
name so the grocery business was
named "A. Bairsto and Co." Evident-
ly that whole corner was owned by
Moses so he gave Lot 251 to his
daughter Agnes Sarah Bairsto who
married George Worden. About
1890 the Wordens moved from Lew-
iston and in 1895 Mr. J. H. Kelly,
owner of extensive farm lands, mer-
chant of coal and grains, bought
the house. From then until 1961
members of the Kelly family lived
there. So it had "tender loving care"
by only two families during those
87 years. Not a "historical" house
but one adding interest to the vil-
lage.

Miss Lenore Collins has a beau-
tiful collection of antiques in a house
that is of interest to Presbyterians.
On the n.e. corner of Niagara and
Plain lived Ira Woolson and his wife
Clarissa, dedicated members of the
Presbyterian Church. In 1844 the old
stone church was in great debt and
was sold on the steps of the Frontier
House at auction. The Woolsons
bought it for \$100 and sold it back
to the congregation for \$101. This
story was featured in a Ripley "Be-
lieve It Or Not" collection quite re-
cently.

Across the street is the tiny Bap-
tist Church which was the Episcopal
Church for many years. This church
and the old stone church and others
in the village being treated in the
section on churches will not be in-
cluded in our consideration of old
Lewiston landmarks.

The house east of the church has
a stone wall on top of which was
originally a fence. In the youth of

HISTORICAL
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engaged in the forwarding business around the Falls from early days, 1807, until the building of the Erie Canal, 1825, put an end to that lucrative occupation. Orasmus Turner in his "History of the Holland Land Purchase" wrote of Mr. Barton: "During a long life, Major Barton has been eminently a useful man. Thrown in his minority upon the world to work his own way, without a shilling to aid him, but possessing talents, industry, perseverance and economy, he overcame all obstacles, and rose to the enjoyment of wealth and honors . . . He was a kind husband, an affectionate father, a good neighbor and an unflinching friend." The author doesn't say he loved farming but other writers have commented upon his ownership of farm lands and of his great interest in agriculture. There is a similarity to George Washington in this respect. Much has been written about this beautiful home, on the grounds of which is a boulder containing a plaque commemorating the Battle of Queenston Heights, Oct. 1812. On this crest of land a battery was erected by Gen. Winfield Scott from which shells were directed to Queenston Heights. Some doubt that a battery could lob shells that far, but that is the record with a State of New York historical marker placed there with great ceremony in 1901.

This writer was privileged to read a small booklet privately printed by the Latta family which gives a bit of lore not seen in the history books. Benjamin Barton had married Agnes Latta in Canandaigua in 1792 and brought her and his family to Lewiston in 1807. The family history printed in 1904 states: "Agnes had anticipated the loss of her home (War of 1812) and caused many of her valuables to be buried; these after the war were safely recovered. Among them was a Grandfather's clock which to this day (1904) records the time, phases of the moon, etc., as faithfully as it did 100 years

of ten children . . . Benjamin Barton was worthy of more than simple mention as the husband of Agnes Latta." So recorded the Lattas. Barton Hill is presently the home of Dr. and Mrs. William Vickers who love it as did the Wolcott Hookers when they bought it from the descendants of Benjamin Barton.

On the opposite side of the hill is "Fairbanks" built by Joshua Fairbanks some time after 1815. Joshua came through the Niagara Frontier during the Holdover Period and had to report as all travelers did to Ft. Niagara. He was on his way to Queenston where he operated a tavern. Later he seems to have operated one in the Falls area before coming down here. In 1824-25 he with Samuel Barton, son of Benjamin, built the Frontier House. Samuel had married in 1820 Harriet Fairbanks, so this was a family enterprise. Was "Fairbanks" as long and as ornate in those early years or did it also have additions by later owners? Capt. James Van Cleve, who married Harriet Barton, daughter of Samuel, lived here and during his ownership a beautiful iron gate closed the property by the gate house which still stands. The present owners have the gate in their possession. Of interest to many residents is the fact that Mr. J. B. Scovell presented this lovely home to Mrs. Scovell as her wedding gift. When Mrs. Scovell was asked recently if they had a gateman when they lived there, she answered that the little house was a most convenient garden tool shed.

Way down on the north rim of the village is De Chantal Hall, a monastery for the Oblates of St. Francis. This was the dream house of Horatio Stowe, a Buffalo lawyer who received his early training in the office of Bates Cooke, our pioneer lawyer. A letter which we cherish reveals his love for his wife, Anna, and the longing he had to build his home on the Niagara River. "I am

flowers as in the days of childhood, and for flowers I have more than common partiality. When we are rich Anna, and can live in the country, then we will have our green house, garden and all other of those things which 'through the eye correct the heart.' Is not this fine anticipation excellent castle building?" This was written in March 1838. Ten years later he had his beautiful home, gardens, a water tower with windmill to supply house and barns. The main section with its beautiful door was the first built, an addition on the south side was added later, and a third section on the north, the final addition, while the house was an elegant private residence. Whether Horatio Stowe added the extras we do not know. He lived only ten years after its completion. Of necessity the Fathers maintaining the monastery have made changes in the interior and have added to the original buildings. Beautiful woodwork and imported fireplace fixtures remain. Old bake ovens in the cellar are closed. The little bake house on the front lawn is now a consecrated shrine. The beautiful gardens have been turfed for playing fields, and the many stables and out buildings house power tools for grooming the lawns, and serve as athletic sheds.

People remember folksy stories about a prominent resident and this one is a favorite about Judge Stowe. He was for many years the legal advisor of the Tuscaroras obstinately refusing any compensation. One day a long line of wagons loaded with wood and driven by young Indians, came to the gate of the Judge bringing a note from their chief, who after recounting the obligations of the tribe for his long and valuable service, ended by saying, "I called the tribe together and harangued them to gratitude. They reward you with this wood and much thankfulness." John Mountpleasant, chief.

A visit to the cemetery reveals

ty-nine years, Feb. 19, 1859. His al service was conducted by a Cooke, the son of Bates, in e office he had first read law.

This is of interest for several reasons. Did a tailor cut the clothes and then a woman in the household of the Hotchkiss family or a village seamstress do the sewing? How small were the charges for the cuttings! The names of the garments are interesting. A Roundabout was a work jacket. This bill covers six months of small jobs. Did he always wait that long before submitting a bill?

The tiny shop was eventually moved to the rear of Helms' store and became a shed for storage.

Helms' store goes back many years. A review of the land search reveals a complex of three parcels of land involving the store and the old Scovell building. These transactions of the land date from 1825 and include the names of Calvin Hotchkiss, Willard Smith, the Cornells, Josiah Tryon, John Fleming and O. P. Scovell. The year 1828 marked the purchase by Calvin Hotchkiss of the land on which the brick building stands. How soon after that he erected the brick building we do not know, but in an 1837 newspaper the brick block of C. Hotchkiss is mentioned as a landmark. Advertisers in that paper locate their store as "two doors east of" or "two doors west of" the brick store. Later it was the store of Leonard Shepard, and eventually it became the Scovell property. Mr. O. P. Scovell had his office on the second floor; J. B. continued. A succession of grocery stores, post office, beauty parlor occupied the ground floor. When Mr. O. P. Scovell was an elder of the Presbyterian Church, mid-week prayer meeting was held in his office and it is remembered that he kept a spittoon or a supply of sawdust handy for the member of the group who chewed tobacco.

John Fleming was the tanner of the small brick house on Seneca St.

Rec. payment for the above in full. Jan. 3, 1839. Josiah Tryon.

of the past is completed in a block of Center St. Between h St. and Niagara there were e early days many stores and shops; some remain. The red grocery store still doing business was built in 1854 by Moses to, of whom we have written. Coat of Arms" has an old Eng- pub look but it was originally town hall and a picture as it then shows a front door ap- ched by a stile-type set of stairs. between the brick building now pieped by the x-ray office and mas' store stood a tiny tailoring a. Here Josiah Tryon and his wife y carried out Christ's commands—feed the hungry, clothe the ed, comfort the sad ones, aid helpless. They had little, but of meager possessions they shared. Josiah was the leader of the erground Railway in our village. J. B. Scovell sat in his office in old brick building, known for y years as "the Scovell build- and recounted these facts. Mix- up articles have been written ut Josiah. He was the poor her of Amos Tryon, the man who t the stone house on the River d to which his wife, Sally Bar- would not move. Which had ter peace in his heart? Josiah ; an elder in the Presbyterian urch, not a minister. Josiah as a rch made out a bill to William chkiss as follows:

8, July 30 To cutting cloths for Eugene75
To cutting pants for self25
To cutting two Roundabouts, self	.50
Nov. 7 To cutting pantaloons . Do.	.25
9, Jan. 3 To cutting Do. . .	.25



AERIAL VIEW OF PRESENT DAY LEWISTON

1872 he established a store of general merchandise which he continued until 1903 when Mr. William A. Helms of Ransomville bought it. There may have been a store there when John Fleming started "The Associated Grocery Store" but it has not been determined. The location has had a long and honorable place in the business of this village and continues under different management to serve the public.

White's shoe store on the corner of Niagara and Center at one time was a tiny grocery store conducted by Abram Bairsto, years after the death of Moses and the selling of their original store to Eugene Mur-

phy. Glass bottles were scarce in the late 1800's and Abram encouraged the village children to bring him bottles for which he would give them a candy. Miss Eugenia Murphy remembered that the school children marched to the cemetery when he died. He was a great favorite.

This survey of homes, stores and personalities has taken a circuitous route around the old village. Perhaps some old person has been neglected, not intentionally. All contributed to the development of Lewiston during its 150 years.

Helen Kimball
May 13, 1971

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VILLAGE

ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, The Cemetery was given to the Village of Lewiston, by the State for the burial of its dead, and

WHEREAS, said Cemetery is so nearly filled as to make it necessary for some restriction as to who shall be buried there in future, therefore it is ordained as follows:

1st That no person not a resident of the village shall be allowed to be buried in the Village Cemetery unless some member of his or her family are already buried there.

2nd. That the Sexton may charge the following prices as his fees for digging and filling up graves, and including all his usual services in the burying of the dead, viz:—

FOR EACH PERSON OF 12 YEARS AND UNDER NOT TO EXCEED \$3.00
FOR EACH PERSON OVER THAT AGE NOT TO EXCEED 4.00

3d. That these ordinances shall take effect immediately.

By order of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lewiston.

O. P. SCOVELL, President.

Lewiston, N. Y., April 9th 1866.

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And the Town of Lewiston was incorporated. We at Marine Midland haven't been around all that time, but rest assured we plan to share in your future.

Best wishes to a great town.

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